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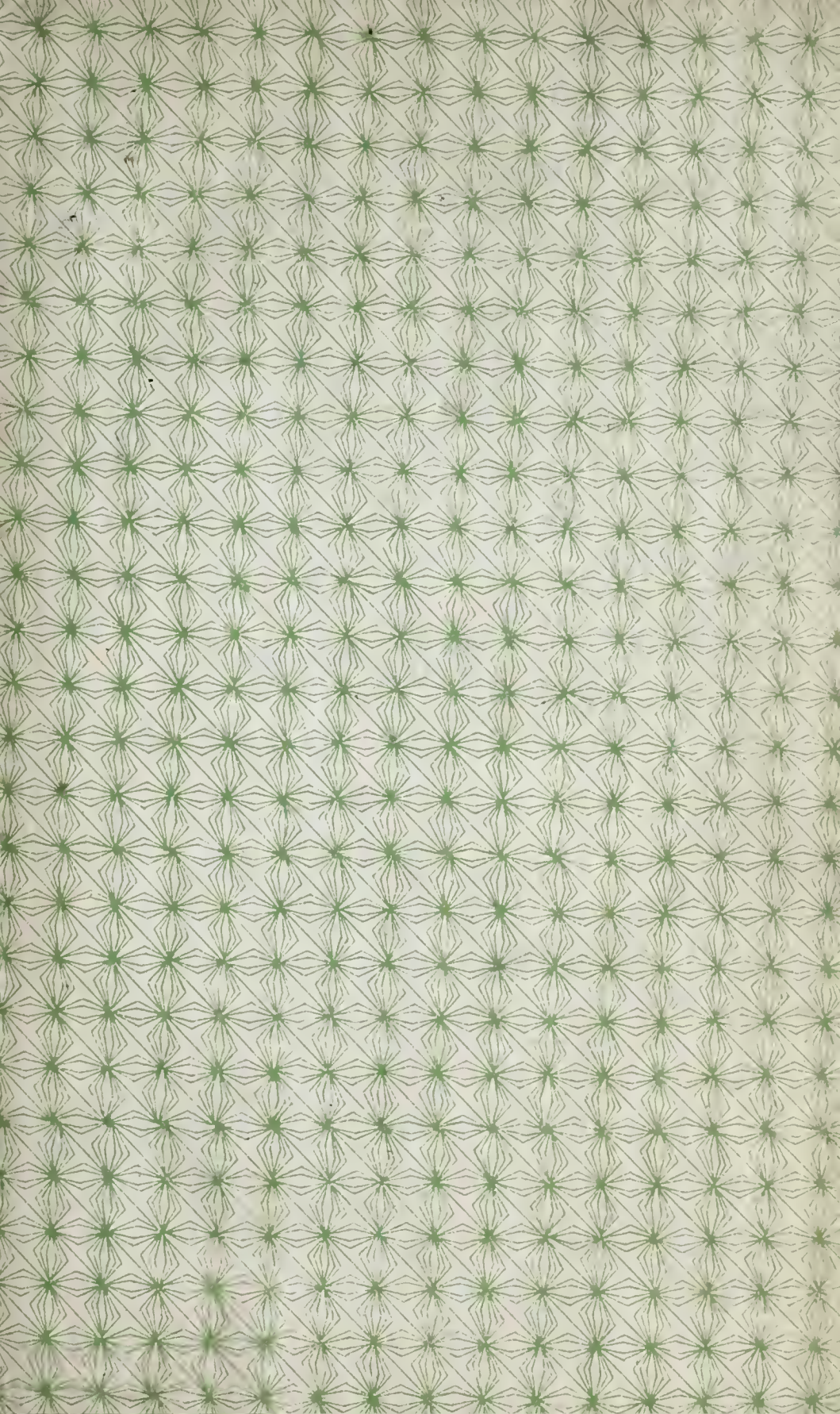
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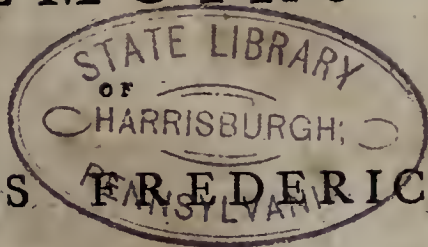




Charles Frederick, King of Prussia.

*Engraved by Heath, from the Original by Pesne of Berlin.
Published as the Act directs by Harrison and Co. Oct. 14. 1786.*

MEMOIRS



CHARLES FREDERICK,

KING OF PRUSSIA.

BY SAMUEL JOHNSON, LL.D.

WITH

NOTES, AND A CONTINUATION,

BY MR. HARRISON,

EDITOR OF THE BRITISH CLASSICKS, DR. JOHNSON'S
FOLIO DICTIONARY, &c. &c.

TO WHICH ARE ADDED,

TRANSLATIONS OF SELECT POEMS

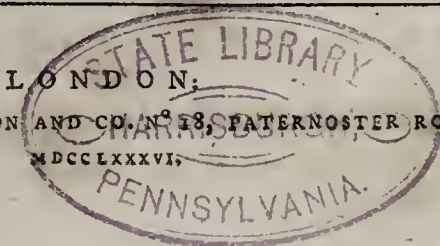
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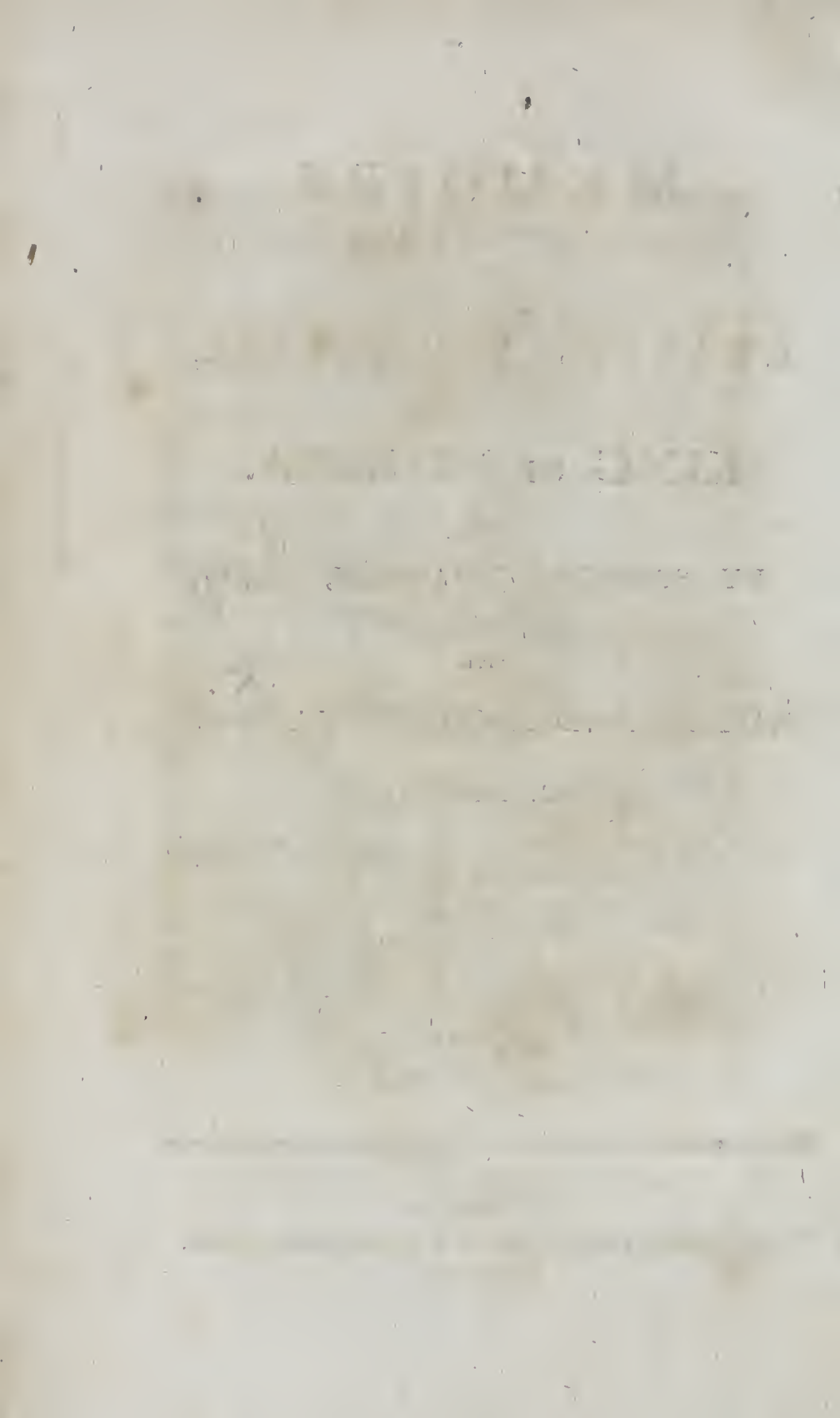
THE KING OF PRUSSIA.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR HARRISON AND CO. NO 18, PATERNOSTER ROW.

MDCCLXXXVI.





ADVERTISEMENT.

THE First Part of these MEMOIRS was written by Dr. JOHNSON, about Thirty Years ago; in a Manner, perhaps, somewhat too desultory, but with that Manliness and Strength of Sentiment and Expression which were so natural to this celebrated Author. The Whole bears many obvious Marks of having been a hasty Production; and, it is to be feared, the Doctor sat down to the Task with too much Prejudice for an Historian: but the EDITOR considers it, all together, as a valuable Piece of Biography, or he would not have attempted the present CONTINUATION.

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P R E F A C E.

A Character so brilliant and various as that of the late CHARLES FREDERICK, KING of PRUSSIA, cannot fail to prove universally interesting.

THE Life of a Sovereign who was at once his own Legislator, his own Prime Minister, and his own Commander in Chief; who executed in the Field the Operations he had planned in the Cabinet, by personally leading to Battle the Troops he had himself trained to Arms; and who, with unabated Activity, when Peace called for less vigorous Pursuits, pervaded every Department of State, and enforced the Laws he had made; must awaken in every intelligent Bosom an ardent Desire to know the several component Parts
which

which formed so illustrious and enterprizing a Character, to trace the Impediments which must naturally have arisen in the Course of so many arduous Undertakings, the Skill and Magnanimity displayed in vanquishing Obstacles, the Exploits to which such Exertions must have given Rise, and the final Success of those Exertions in conducing to the Happiness of himself and People.

No Dullness or Frigidity in a Writer can detract from this grand Assemblage of Subjects for Investigation, which a very moderate Portion of Ability may easily augment and improve.

Most egregiously wanting must any Man be, either in Candour, Information, or Judgment, who should deny that the KING of PRUSSIA, whatever might be his Imperfections, possessed
very

very rare Talents; not only as a Legislator, a Statesman, and a Warrior, but as a Philosopher, an Historian, a Musician, and a Poet.

SOME Proofs are given to the Reader, at the Conclusion of this Volume, under all the Disadvantages of Translation, that the Poetical Productions of the KING of PRUSSIA are entitled to a higher Degree of Reputation than they seem to have yet obtained in this Country.

THOUGH Expectation may be raised by the Consideration of what such a Character is capable, the EDITOR and CONTINUATOR thinks he has on this Occasion little to fear. He is abundantly sensible how great an AUTHOR has preceded him: but he relies on the extraordinary Merit of that very Predecessor; the peculiarly interesting
Period

Period of the KING of PRUSSIA's Reign which falls to his own Share; and, above all, the often experienced Candour of a generous and discerning Public; for the full Reward of his Labour and Abilities.

MEMOIRS

MEMOIRS
OF THE
KING OF PRUSSIA.

PART I.

BY SAMUEL JOHNSON, LL.D.

CHARLES FREDERICK, the present KING of PRUSSIA, whose actions and designs now keep Europe in attention*, is the eldest son of Frederick William, by Sophia Dorothea, daughter of George the First, King of England. He was born January 24, 1711-12. Of his early years nothing remarkable has been transmitted to us. As he advanced towards manhood, he became remarkable by his disagreement with his father.

* The reader must remember, that the first part of these Memoirs is printed *verbatim* as written by Dr. Johnson, in the year 1756, in which the Editor is not at liberty to make any alterations. He, however, is alone answerable for what may be advanced in the NOTES.

THE late King of Prussia was of a disposition violent and arbitrary; of narrow views, and vehement passions; earnestly engaged in little pursuits, or in schemes terminating in some speedy consequence, without any plan of lasting advantage to himself or his subjects, or any prospect of distant events. He was, therefore, always busy, though no effects of his activity ever appeared, and always eager, though he had nothing to gain. His behaviour was to the last degree rough and savage. The least provocation, whether designed or accidental, was returned by blows, which he did not always forbear to the queen and princesses.

FROM such a king and such a father it was not any enormous violation of duty in the immediate heir of a kingdom sometimes to differ in opinion, and to maintain that difference with decent pertinacity. A prince of a quick sagacity and comprehensive knowledge, must find many practices in the conduct of affairs which he could not approve, and some which he could scarcely forbear to oppose.

THE chief pride of the old king, was to be master of the tallest regiment in Europe. He therefore

therefore brought together from all parts, men above the common military standard. To exceed the height of six feet was a certain recommendation to notice, and to approach that of seven, a claim to distinction. Men will readily go where they are sure to be careſſed; and he had therefore ſuch a collection of giants as perhaps was never ſeen in the world before.

To review this towering regiment was his daily pleaſure, and to perpetuate it was ſo much his care, that when he met a tall woman, he immediately commanded one of his TITANIAN retinue to marry her, that they might propagate procerity, and produce heirs to the father's habiliments*.

IN all this there was apparent folly, but there was no crime. The tall regiment made a fine ſhew, at an expence not much greater, when once it was collected, than would have

* This, the Editor cannot avoid remarking, ſeems to him a true Johnſonian period: "*he immediately commanded one of his TITANIAN retinue to marry her, that they might propagate PRO CERITY, and produce heirs to the father's HABILIMENTS.*"

been bestowed upon common men. But the king's military pastimes were sometimes more pernicious. He maintained a numerous army, of which he made no other use than to review and to talk of it; and when he, or perhaps his emissaries, saw a boy, whose form and sprightliness promised a future soldier, he ordered a kind of a badge to be put about his neck, by which he was marked out for the service, like the sons of Christian captives in Turkey, and his parents were forbidden to destine him to any other mode of life.

THIS was sufficiently oppressive, but this was not the utmost of his tyranny*. He had learned, though otherwise perhaps no very great politician, that to be rich was to be power-

* Frederick William went daily, in an old blue coat and copper buttons, armed with a stout serjeant's cane, to review his regiment of giants, the first rank of which were never less than seven feet high; and, as he walked through the streets, if he happened to meet a woman—for in general they fled from him with the utmost precipitation—he would ask what she did from home; and, telling her she was a lazy hussy, as no honest woman could possibly have any business over the threshold of her own door, conclude his polite lecture by giving her a smart slap of the face, a kick, or a few severe strokes across the shoulders with his cane.

ful;

ful; but that the riches of a king ought to be seen in the opulence of his subjects, he wanted either ability or benevolence to understand. He therefore raised exorbitant taxes from every kind of commodity and possession, and piled up money in his treasury, from which it issued no more. How the land which had paid taxes once, was to pay them a second time; how imposts could be levied without commerce, or commerce continued without money, it was not his custom to enquire. Eager to snatch at money, and delighted to count it, he felt new joy at every receipt, and thought himself enriched by the impoverishment of his dominions.

By which of these freaks of royalty the prince was offended, or whether, as perhaps more frequently happens, the offences of which he complained, were of a domestick and personal kind, it is not easy to discover*. But his resentment, whatever was its cause, rose so high, that he resolved not only to leave his father's court, but

* The many polite accomplishments of the young prince, served only to disgust his brutal and tyrannick father; who frequently threw his books in the fire, broke his musical instruments, and complimented him with personal chastisement similar to that which he so liberally bestowed on his female subjects.

his territories, and to seek a refuge among the neighbouring or kindred princes. It is generally believed that his intention was to come to England, and live under the protection of his uncle, till his father's death or change of conduct should give him liberty to return.

His design, whatever it was, he concerted with an officer of the army, whose name was Kat; a man in whom he placed great confidence, and whom, having chosen him for the companion of his flight, he necessarily trusted with the preparatory measures*. A prince can-

* A young gentleman, of the name of Keit, was also to have accompanied the prince in his intended excursion; and he, too, was taken into custody, but found the means of escaping to Holland. Thither the king's messengers were dispatched after him; and he was within a few minutes of being apprehended, when he fortunately got on board a vessel ready to sail for Portugal, in which country he remained till the decease of Frederick William. This transaction was in 1730, the prince being then about eighteen years of age. The king at first imagined his daughter the Princess Wilhelmina had been privy to the whole affair; and, as he was remarkable for dispatch in the executive part of justice, he proceeded to kick her out of a large window which reached from the floor to the cieling. The queen, however, with great difficulty saved her from the fall, but the princess received a hurt in the left breast, which is said never to have forsaken her.

not

not leave his country with the speed of a meaner fugitive. Something was to be provided, and something to be adjusted. And, whether Kat found the agency of others necessary, and therefore was constrained to admit some partners of the secret; whether levity or vanity incited him to disburden himself of a trust that swelled in his bosom, or to shew to a friend or mistress his own importance; or whether it be in itself difficult for princes to transact any thing in secret; so it was, that the king was informed of the intended flight, and the prince and his favourite, a little before the time settled for their departure, were arrested, and confined in different places.

THE life of princes is seldom in danger, the hazard of their irregularities falls only on those whom ambition or affection combines with them*. The king, after an imprisonment of

B 4

some

* On this occasion, however, there is reason to suppose, the prince's life was actually in very great danger. Certain it is, that after he was arrested, and had been compelled to see a young lady, for whom he was supposed to entertain too much regard, publicly flagellated by the hands of the common executioner, he was conveyed to the citadel of Custrin, situated in the midst of a dank and unwholesome marsh, where he was kept a close prisoner for six months in a solitary dungeon, without

some time, set his son at liberty; but poor Kat was ordered to be tried for a capital crime. The

without any servant to attend him. After the prince had been a few weeks in this situation, an old officer, followed by four of the tall troops, entered his apartment in tears: the prince now entertained no doubt that he was going to be the sacrifice of his stern father's indignation; when the officer, still in tears, ordered the soldiers to convey him to the window, that he might witness the sufferings of his friend and companion Kat, who was at this instant beheaded on a scaffold purposely erected on that spot. He just beheld the horrid spectacle, clasped his hands in agony, and fainted. The unfeeling father was present at both these scenes of wanton cruelty, which made an impression on the son that time was unable totally to efface. The inhuman despot, however, was unwilling to stop here; he even meditated the death of the prince; and would probably have beheaded him, if the Emperor Charles VI. had not seriously interfered, and signified, by his ambassador Count Sekendorf, sent purposely to the Prussian court, that the Prince Royal, as a prince of the Empire, must not be condemned to death, otherwise than in a full Diet. Nor was it, after all, a very easy business, to divert the king from the resolution he had formed of beheading his son. However, when he had made the prince suffer a year and a half's confinement, the remonstrances of the emperor, and the queen's tears, at length procured his enlargement. This kind interference of the emperor, say the enemies of the King of Prussia, was but ill requited by the subsequent calamities brought on the subjects of his immediate successor. It is, however, always extremely difficult, and not unfrequently absolutely impossible, to judge with any certainty of the various motives which may influence the public conduct of a great and an enterprising potentate.

court

court examined the cause, and acquitted him; the king remanded him to a second trial, and obliged his judges to condemn him. In consequence of the sentence thus tyrannically extorted, he was publicly beheaded, leaving behind him some papers of reflections made in the prison, which were afterwards printed; and, among others, an admonition to the prince for whose sake he suffered, not to foster in himself the opinion of destiny, for that a Providence is discoverable in every thing around us.

THIS cruel prosecution of a man who had committed no crime, but by compliance with influence not easily to be resisted, was not the only act by which the old king irritated his son. A lady, with whom the prince was suspected of intimacy, perhaps more than virtue allowed, was seized, I know not upon what accusation, and, by the king's order, notwithstanding all the reasons of decency and tenderness that operate in other countries and other judicatures, was publicly whipped through the streets of Berlin.

AT last, that the prince might feel the power of a king and a father in it's utmost rigour, he
was

was in 1733 married against his will to the Princess Elizabetha Christina of Brunswick Lünenburg Beveren. He married her, indeed, at his father's command, but without professing for her either esteem or affection; and, considering the claim of parental authority fully satisfied by the external ceremony, obstinately and perpetually, during the life of his father, refrained from her bed. The poor princess lived about seven years in the court of Berlin, in a state which the world has not often seen, a wife without a husband; married so far as to engage her person to a man who did not desire her affection, and of whom it was doubtful whether he thought himself restrained from the power of repudiation by an act performed under evident compulsion*.

THUS he lived secluded from public business, in contention with his father, in alienation from his wife. This state of uneasiness he found the only means of softening. He diverted his mind from the scenes about him, by studies and li-

* It is yet generally imagined that this marriage was never consummated. But though the royal pair seldom saw each other more than three or four times a year, a greater degree of harmony than might under such circumstances be expected is said always to have subsisted between them.

beral amusements. The studies of princes seldom produce great effects, for princes draw with meaner mortals the lot of understanding; and since of many students not more than one can be hoped to advance far towards perfection, it is scarcely to be expected that we should find that one a prince; that the desire of science should overpower in any mind the love of pleasure, when it is always present, or always within call; that laborious meditations should be preferred in the days of youth to amusements and festivity; or that perseverance should press forward in contempt of flattery; and that he, in whom moderate acquisitions would be extolled as prodigies, should exact from himself that excellence, of which the whole world conspires to spare him the necessity.

IN every great performance, perhaps in every great character, part is the gift of nature, part the contribution of accident, and part, very often the greatest part, the effect of voluntary election, and regular design. The King of Prussia was undoubtedly born with more than common abilities; but that he has cultivated them with more than common diligence, was probably the effect of his peculiar condition,
of

of that which he then considered as cruelty and misfortune.

IN this long interval of unhappiness and obscurity, he acquired skill in the mathematical sciences, such as is said to put him on the level with those who have made them the business of their lives. This is probably to say too much; the acquisitions of kings are always magnified*. His skill in poetry and in the French language, have been loudly praised by Voltaire, a judge

* The King of Prussia was by no means insensible of the truth of this remark. He has exactly the same sentiment in his own Address to his Soul—

*Pouvez vous ignorer qu'un Roi quoi qu'il propose,
Et quoi qu'il entreprenne, excelle en toute chose?*

Without a wish to combat this maxim, just as it undoubtedly is in a general sense, it will perhaps not be hazarding too much to assert, that the King of Prussia might have been esteemed a greater Poet, if he had not been so great a Warrior; since it is the nature of mankind to disallow extraordinary excellence in a variety of accomplishments to any single individual. We are apt to form hasty ideas of characters from the first grand trait which excites our attention, and we are afterwards unwilling to relinquish our prepossessions: nor is there any thing more common than to hear all the world exclaim—‘He is a bad Man, but a good King; a bad King, but a good Man:’ as if the two qualities were necessarily incompatible.

without

without exception, if his honesty were equal to his knowledge*. Musick he not only under-

* Voltaire has since given abundant proof, *that he was not honest*—by every where depreciating the literary talents of the Prussian monarch, which he had before so highly extolled; and, with peculiar modesty, more than insinuating, that all the different productions published under the king's name were indebted to him for the little merit they contained. So dangerous is it for a man of letters, even from the most amiable diffidence, to solicit any one's assistance in the correction of his manuscripts. Voltaire might transcribe, or make a few trivial alterations, in some of these works; but many were certainly published, both before and after his intimacy with the King of Prussia, and we do not find that they are, generally speaking, at all inferior to those which were produced at the time when it was possible that petulant philosopher might occasionally exercise his acknowledged ability for their improvement. Those, however, who know how very tenacious men of real genius are of any material deviation from their own genuine ideas—and the King of Prussia was unquestionably a man of real genius—will not hastily believe that his writings owe any thing material to the pen of Voltaire. The productions bear internal marks of originality; and all the malignity of a Voltaire, aided by a world too much disposed to favour this species of detraction, will never be able entirely to strip the King of those literary laurels with which Fame has liberally entwined the honorary wreath of his vast military achievements. The intelligent part of mankind will examine beyond the surface; and, after detecting every unworthy motive, they will apportion their applause to their own unprejudiced estimation of the author's abilities.

stands,

stands, but practises on the German-flute in the highest perfection; so that, according to the regal censure of Philip of Macedon, he may be ashamed to play so well *.

HE may be said to owe to the difficulties of his youth, an advantage less frequently obtained by princes than literature and mathematics. The necessity of passing his time without pomp, and of partaking of the pleasures and labours of a lower station, made him acquainted with the various forms of life, and with the genuine passions, interests, desires and distresses of mankind. Kings, without this help from temporary infelicity, see the world in a mist, which magnifies every thing near them, and bounds their view to a narrow compass, which few are able to extend by the mere force of curiosity. I have always thought, that what Cromwell had more than our lawful kings, he owed to the private condition in which he first entered the world, and in which he long

* There are several pieces of musick extant, particularly for the German-flute, actually composed by the King of Prussia, who was universally acknowledged to be one of the very first performers in the world on that pleasing instrument.

continued; in that state he learned his art of secret transaction, and the knowledge by which he was able to oppose zeal to zeal, and make one enthusiast destroy another.

THE King of Prussia gained the same arts; and being born to fairer opportunities of using them, brought to the throne the knowledge of a private man, without the guilt of usurpation. Of this general acquaintance with the world, there may be found some traces in his whole life. His conversation is like that of other men upon common topicks; his letters have an air of familiar elegance, and his whole conduct is that of a man who has to do with men, and who is ignorant what motives will prevail over friends or enemies.

IN 1740, the old king fell sick, and spoke and acted in his illness with his usual turbulence and roughness; reproaching his physicians in the grossest terms, with their unskilfulness and impotence, and imputing to their ignorance or wickedness the pain which their prescriptions failed to relieve. These insults they bore with the submission which is commonly paid to despotick monarchs; till at last the celebrated

Hoffman

Hoffman was consulted, who failing like the rest to give ease to his majesty, was like the rest treated with injurious language. Hoffman, conscious of his own merit, replied—that he could not bear reproaches which he did not deserve; that he had tried all the remedies that art could supply, or nature could admit; that he was indeed a professor by his majesty's bounty, but that if his abilities or integrity were doubted, he was willing to leave not only the university but the kingdom, and that he could not be driven into any place where the name of Hoffman would want respect. The king, however unaccustomed to such returns, was struck with conviction of his own indecency, told Hoffman that he had spoken well, and requested him to continue his attendance.

THE king, finding his distemper gaining upon his strength, grew at last sensible that his end was approaching; and, ordering the prince to be called to his bed, laid several injunctions upon him, of which one was to perpetuate the tall regiment by continual recruits, and another to receive his espoused wife. The prince gave him a respectful answer, but wisely avoided to diminish his own right or power by an absolute promise,

promise, and the king died uncertain of the fate of the tall regiment*.

THE young king began his reign with great expectations, which he has yet surpassed. His father's faults produced many advantages to the first years of his reign. He had an army of seventy thousand men well disciplined, without any imputation of severity to himself, and was master of a vast treasure, without the crime or reproach of raising it. It was publicly said in our House of Commons, that he had eight millions sterling of our money; but, I believe, he that said it had not considered how difficultly eight millions would be found in all the Prus-

* Such was the attachment of Frederick William to his military affairs, that in his last illness, being unable to go among the soldiers, he had the place of four large panes of glass in his bedchamber supplied by a single pane, through which he might see them perform their evolutions as he sat; and when he at length became too feeble to sit up, and was at any time uncommonly languid, his attendants raised his head before the window, and a sight of the men under arms was observed to operate as a cordial in reviving his spirits. By frequent repetitions, however, this cordial lost its efficacy; his eyes now became dim—when his head was lifted up he could no longer perceive the soldiers—and he expired.

fian dominions. Men judge of what they do not see by that which they see. We are used to talk in England of millions with great familiarity, and imagine that there is the same affluence of money in other countries, in countries whose manufactures are few, and commerce little*.

EVERY man's first cares are necessarily domestick. The king being now no longer under influence or it's appearance, determined how to act towards the unhappy lady who had possessed for seven years the empty title of the Princess of Prussia. The papers of those times exhibited the conversation of their first interview; as if the king who plans campaigns in

* Though it may be impossible to ascertain the exact sum which the cruel rapacity and mean parsimony of the deceased monarch enabled him to leave in his treasury, it has even been asserted that the cellars of his palace at Berlin actually contained one hundred and twenty millions of crowns, or *fifteen millions sterling*, all casked up in hogheads hooped with iron; that the apartments of the palace were crouded with huge unwieldy pieces of plate, formed at little or no expence of workmanship; and that, in addition to this prodigious accumulation of wealth, his queen possessed a large magnificent cabinet, the contents of which were entirely of gold.

-silence

fired the continuance of their friendship, and sent for M. Maupertuis, the principal of the French academicians, who passed a winter in Lapland to verify by the mensuration of a degree near the pole the Newtonian doctrine of the form of the earth. He requested of Maupertuis to come to Berlin, to settle an academy, in terms of great ardour and great condescension*.

AT the same time he shewed the world that literary amusements were not likely, as has more than once happened to royal students, to withdraw him from the care of the kingdom, or make him forget his interest. He began by reviving a claim to Herstal and Hermal, two districts in the possession of the Bishop of Liege. When he sent his commissary to demand the homage of the inhabitants, they refused him admission, declaring that they acknowledged no sovereign but the bishop. The king then wrote a letter to the bishop, in

* Maupertuis, accordingly, had apartments assigned him in the royal palace at Berlin, where he spent the remainder of his days in uninterrupted harmony with the king, though his felicity was considerably invaded by Voltaire, when that philosopher afterwards came to reside at the Prussian court.

which he complained of the violation of his right, and the contempt of his authority, charged the prelate with countenancing the late act of disobedience, and required an answer in two days.

IN three days the answer was sent, in which the bishop founds his claim to the two lordships, upon a grant of Charles the Fifth, guaranteed by France and Spain; alleges that his predecessors had enjoyed this grant above a century, and that he never intended to infringe the rights of Prussia; but as the House of Brandenburg had always made some pretensions to that territory, he was willing to do what other bishops had offered, to purchase that claim for an hundred thousand crowns.

To every man that knows the state of the feudal countries, the intricacy of their pedigrees, the confusion of their alliances, and the different rules of inheritance that prevail in different places, it will appear evident, that of reviving antiquated claims there can be no end, and that the possession of a century is a better title than can commonly be produced.

So

one that had 'betrayed his master, and abused
'his trust.'

HE then declared his resolution to grant a general toleration of religion, and among other liberalities of concession allowed the profession of Free Masonry*. It is the great taint of his character, that he has given reason to doubt, whether this toleration is the effect of charity or indifference; whether he means to support good men of every religion, or considers all religions as equally good†.

THERE had subsisted for some time in Prussia an order called the Order for Favour; which, according to its denomination, had been conferred with very little distinction. The King

* The King of Prussia had himself been privately made a Freemason, during the life-time of his father; it is, therefore, not at all wonderful that he should countenance a society which he knew to be equally rational and inoffensive.

† Perhaps it would be charitable to ascribe this tolerating disposition to a just disdain of controuling men's consciences, and a liberal allowance of the free exercise of every different persuasion. And may we not attribute to a delicacy of sentiment—which some may approve, and some may disapprove—the pains he always took to avoid giving the smallest appearance of *preference* to any particular sect?

HE still continued that correspondence with learned men, which he began when he was prince, and the eyes of all scholars, a race of mortals formed for dependence*, were upon him, as a man likely to renew the times of patronage, and to emulate the bounties of Lewis the Fourteenth.

IT soon appeared that he was resolved to govern with very little ministerial assistance; he took cognizance of every thing with his own eyes; declared that in all contrarieties of interest between him and his subjects, the public good should have the preference, and in one of the first exertions of regal power banished the prime-minister and favourite of his father, as

* When Dr. Johnson penned these words, which are delivered with all the intemperate zeal of an austere and unaccommodating mind, he little thought of afterwards becoming a pensioner under another monarch, and thus enjoying that species of patronage which he in this place affects to despise. The wisest men hazard much in all general assertions. Yet, though the doctor was himself a melancholy proof of the truth of his own remark, how many amiable qualifications did that wonderful man possess, to balance trivial infirmities! and how well did he merit, by his services to society, the annuity he for some years received from the hands of his munificent sovereign!

one

such a leader with alacrity ; especially because they expected no opposition* : but human expectations are frequently deceived.

ENTERING thus suddenly into a country which he was supposed rather likely to protect than to invade, he acted for some time with absolute authority; but supposing that this submission would not always last, he endeavoured to persuade the queen to a cession of Silesia, imagining that she would easily be persuaded to yield what was already lost. He therefore ordered his ministers to declare at Vienna, that he was ready to guaranty all the German dominions of the House of Austria. That he would conclude a treaty with Austria, Russia, and the maritime powers. That he would endeavour that the Duke of Lorrain should be elected emperor, and believed that he could accomplish it. That he would immediately advance to the queen two millions of florins. That in recompence for all this he required Silesia to be yielded to him.

* An illiberal insinuation; much more disgraceful to the doctor, than to the Prussian character for bravery.

THESE

THESE seem not to be the offers of a prince very much convinced of his own right*. He afterwards moderated his claim, and ordered his minister to hint at Vienna, that half of Silesia would content him.

THE queen answered, that though the king alledged as his reason for entering Silesia, the danger of the Austrian territories from other pretenders, and endeavours to persuade her to give up part of her possessions for the preservation of the rest, it was evident that he was the first and only invader, and that till he entered in a hostile manner, all her estates were unmolested.

To his promises of assistance she replied, that she set an high value on the King of Prussia's friendship, but that he was already obliged to assist her against invaders, both by the Golden Bull, and the Pragmatic Sanction, of which he was a guarantee; and that if these ties were of no force, she knew not what to

* This is an unfair inference. It is the experience of every hour, that a man thoroughly convinced of his right will often consent to relinquish a part, for the certain and quiet possession of the remainder.

with which she struggled with her difficulties, and the good fortune by which she surmounted them; the narrow plan of this essay will not suffer me to relate. Let them be told by some other writer, of more leisure and wider intelligence*.

UPON the emperor's death, many of the German princes fell upon the Austrian territories as upon a dead carcase to be dismembered among them without resistance. Among these, with whatever justice, certainly with very little generosity, was the King of Prussia, who having assembled his troops, as was imagined to support the Pragmatic Sanction, on a sudden entered Silesia with thirty thousand men, publishing a declaration in which he disclaims any design of injuring the rights of the house of Austria, but urges his claim to Silesia, as aris-

* The history of the Queen of Hungary might no doubt form an interesting piece of biography; but the reader would probably lose his compassion for the sufferings of this extraordinary heroine, when he came to contemplate her ingratitude. In the subsequent part of the present memoirs, it will appear, that she not only joined the arms of France against the country that now shielded her from destruction; but actually assisted the intrigues of that restless court in promoting the sanguinary war of 1756, which so long deluged Europe.

ing

ing from antient conventions of family and confraternity between the house of Brandenburg, and the Princes of Silesia, and other honourable titles. He says, the fear of being defeated by other pretenders to the Austrian dominions, obliged him to enter Silesia without any previous expostulation with the queen, and that he shall strenuously espouse the interests of the House of Austria.

SUCH a declaration was, I believe, in the opinion of all Europe, nothing less than the aggravation of hostility by insult, and was received by the Austrians with suitable indignation. The king pursued his purpose, marched forward, and in the frontiers of Silesia made a speech to his followers, in which he told them, that he considered them rather as friends than subjects; that the troops of Brandenburg had been always eminent for their bravery; that they would always fight in his presence, and that he would recompense those who should distinguish themselves in his service rather as a father than as a king.

THE civilities of the great are never thrown away. The soldiers would naturally follow such

So long a prescription supposes an acquiescence in the other claimants, and the acquiescence supposes also some reason, perhaps now unknown, for which the claim was forbore. Whether this rule could be considered as valid in the controversy between these sovereigns may however be doubted, for the bishop's answer seems to imply that the title of the House of Brandenburg had been kept alive by repeated claims, though the seizure of the territory had been hitherto forbore*.

THE king did not suffer his claim to be subjected to any altercations, but having published a declaration in which he charged the bishop with violence and injustice, and remarked that the feudal laws allowed every man whose possession was withheld from him, to enter it with an armed force, he immediately dispatched two thousand soldiers into the controverted countries, where they lived without controul, exercising every kind of military tyranny, till the cries of the inhabitants forced

* An intelligent reader will recognize, as well in this as many other places, the doctor's unwillingness to exculpate, if not his eagerness to criminate, the character of his Prussian majesty,

the bishop, to relinquish them to the quiet government of Prussia.

THIS was but a petty acquisition, the time was now come when the King of Prussia was to form and execute greater designs. On the 9th of October 1740, half Europe was thrown into confusion by the death of Charles the Sixth, Emperor of Germany, by whose death all the hereditary dominions of the House of Austria descended, according to the Pragmatic Sanction, to his eldest daughter, who was married to the Duke of Lorrain, at the time of the emperor's death Duke of Tuscany.

By how many securities the Pragmatic Sanction was fortified, and how little it was regarded when those securities became necessary; how many claimants started up at once to the several dominions of the House of Austria; how vehemently their pretensions were enforced, and how many invasions were threatened or attempted; the distresses of the emperor's daughter, known for several years by the title only of the Queen of Hungary, because Hungary was the only country to which her claim had not been disputed; the firmness
with

hope from other engagements. Of his offers of alliance with Russia and the maritime powers, she observed, that it could be never fit to alienate her dominions for the consolidation of an alliance formed only to keep them intire.

WITH regard to his interest in the election of an emperor, she expressed her gratitude in strong terms; but added, that the election ought to be free, and that it must be necessarily embarrassed by contentions thus raised in the heart of the empire*. Of the pecuniary assistance proposed she remarks, that no prince ever made war to oblige another to take money, and that the contributions already levied in Silesia, exceed the two millions offered as it's purchase.

SHE concluded, that as she values the king's friendship, she was willing to purchase it by any compliance but the diminution of her dominions; and exhorted him to perform his part in support of the Pragmatic Sanction.

* The Queen of Hungary, in this place, with great political artifice, avails herself of the King of Prussia's unguarded promise to influence the princes of the empire in their election of a supreme sovereign. *The truth is not always to be spoken.*

THE

THE king finding negotiation thus ineffectual, pushed forward his inroads, and now began to shew how secretly he could take his measures. When he called a council of war, he proposed the question in a few words; all his generals wrote their opinions in his presence, upon separate papers, which he carried away, and examining them in private, formed his resolution without imparting it otherwise than by his orders.

HE began, not without policy, to seize first upon the estates of the clergy, an order every where necessary, and every where envied. He plundered the convents of their stores of provision, and told them that he never had heard of any magazines erected by the apostles.

THIS insult was mean, because it was unjust; but those who could not resist were obliged to bear it*. He proceeded in his expedition, and a detachment of his troops took Jablunca, one of the strong places of Silesia, which was soon after abandoned for want of provisions, which the Austrian hussars, who were now in motion, were busy to intercept.

* Nothing less than determined prejudice could have converted such an observation into a mean insult.

ONE of the most remarkable events of the Silesia war, was the conquest of Great Glogau, which was taken by an assault in the dark, headed by Prince Leopold of Anhalt Dessau. They arrived at the foot of the fortifications about twelve at night, and in two hours were masters of the place. In attempts of this kind, many accidents happen which cannot be heard without surprize, Four Prussian grenadiers who had climbed the ramparts, missing their own company, met an Austrian captain with fifty-two men; they were at first frightened, and were about to retreat, but gathering courage, commanded the Austrians to lay down their arms, and in the terror of darkness and confusion were unexpectedly obeyed.

AT the same time, a conspiracy to kill or carry away the King of Prussia, was said to be discovered*. The Prussians published a memorial, in which the Austrian court was accused of employing emissaries and assassins against the king; and it was alledged in direct terms, that one of them had confessed himself obliged by

* Whatever truth there might be in this particular report, it has been generally understood that an assassination of the King of Prussia was more than once in contemplation,

oath to destroy him, which oath had been given him in an Aulic Council, in the presence of the Duke of Lorrain.

To this the Austrians answered, That the character of the queen and duke was too well known not to destroy the force of such an accusation; that the tale of the confession was an imposture, and that no such attempt was ever made.

EACH party was now inflamed, and orders were given to the Austrian general to hazard a battle. The two armies met at Molwitz, and parted without a compleat victory on either side. The Austrians quitted the field in good order, and the King of Prussia rode away upon the first disorder of his troops, without waiting for the last event. This attention to his personal safety has not yet been forgotten*.

AFTER

* Some accounts assert, and they seem far more probable than this vague idea of a drawn battle, that the Prussian cavalry at first gave way before the troops of Marshal Neuperg, the Austrian general, who had forced the King of Prussia into an engagement under the walls of Neisse; and that his majesty, not chusing to risque every thing on a battle into which he had been hasted before he could conveniently make the necessary preparations, retired to Opelsine, about
twelve

AFTER this there was no action of much importance. But the King of Prussia, irritated by opposition, transferred his interest in the election to the Duke of Bavaria; and the Queen of Hungary, now attacked by France, Spain, and Bavaria, was obliged to make peace with him at the expence of half Silesia, without procuring those advantages which were once offered her.

To enlarge dominions, has been the boast of many princes; to diffuse happiness and security through wide regions, has been granted to few. The King of Prussia has aspired to both these honours, and endeavoured to join the praise of legislator to that of conqueror.

twelve leagues distant; leaving proper instructions with General Schwerin, commander of the infantry, and his other officers, from whom he soon afterwards received intelligence that the Austrians had been completely defeated in the celebrated battle of Molwitz. Notoriously certain it is, that the battle of Molwitz was gained by the troops of the King of Prussia; which the reader could never suppose, without better information than can possibly be obtained from Dr. Johnson's too loose account of that business. The doctor, on this occasion, was determined to tell the world, in the most unqualified terms, that the King of Prussia *rode away*; and, with the usual contracted attention of prejudice, he neglected for the moment every other object.

To settle property, to suppress false claims, and to regulate the administration of civil and criminal justice, are attempts so difficult and so useful, that I shall willingly suspend or contract the history of battles and sieges, to give a larger account of this pacific enterprize.

THAT the King of Prussia has considered the nature and the reasons of laws with more attention than is common to princes, appears from his Dissertation on the Reasons for Enacting and Repealing Laws. A piece which yet deserves notice, rather as a proof of good inclination than of great ability. For there is nothing to be found in it more than the most obvious books may supply, or the weakest intellect discover. Some of his observations are just and useful; but upon such a subject who can think without often thinking right*? It is, however, not to be omitted, that he appears always propense towards the side of mercy. ‘If a

* This is really speaking too contemptuously of the king’s literary and legislative ability. Dr. Johnson felt himself a greater man, *in his own way*, than the illustrious warrior—and perhaps he was so—but the monarch of Prussia, after all, possessed abilities that did him honour, *even in the doctor’s own way*, and they ought to have been less fastidiously acknowledged.

‘poor man,’ says he, ‘steals in his want a watch, or a few pieces, from one to whom the loss is inconsiderable, is this a reason for condemning him to death?’

He regrets that the laws against duels have been ineffectual, and is of opinion that they can never attain their end, unless the princes of Europe shall agree not to afford an asylum to duellists, and to punish all who shall insult their equals either by word, deed, or writing. He seems to suspect this scheme of being chimerical*. ‘Yet why,’ says he, ‘should not personal quarrels be submitted to judges, as well as questions of possession; and why should not a congress be appointed for the general good of mankind, as well as for so many purposes of less importance?’

* The doctor has here evidently mistaken the king’s meaning. These are his words, almost literally translated—*“Let me not be charged with having adopted the visionary notions of the Abbé de St. Pierre—I see nothing impracticable in the idea that men should submit their personal quarrels to the decision of judges, as well as their disputes relative to property.”* Dr. Johnson ought, therefore, only to have said—*The king seems to suspect that his scheme may be considered as chimerical.*

He

HE declares himself with great ardour against the use of torture; and, by some misinformation, charges the English that they still retain it*.

IT is perhaps impossible to review the laws of any country without discovering many defects and many superfluities. Laws often continue, when their reasons have ceased. Laws made for the first state of the society continue unabolished, when the general form of life is changed. Parts of the judicial procedure which were at first only accidental, become in time essential; and formalities are accumulated on each other, till the art of litigation requires more study than the discovery of right.

THE King of Prussia examining the institutions of his own country, thought them such as could only be amended by a general abrogation, and the establishment of a new body of law,

* The old common-law punishment of *paine forte et dure*, only a few years since abolished by act of parliament, among some other judicial reformations which do honour to the present reign, and to which the King of Prussia doubtless refers, had more affinity to what in other countries we properly denominate *torture*, than Dr. Johnson appears to have considered, or indeed to have known.

to which he gave the name of the CODE FREDERICK, which is comprized in one volume of no great bulk, and must therefore unavoidably contain general positions, to be accommodated to particular cases by the wisdom and integrity of the courts. To embarrass justice by multiplicity of laws, or to hazard it by confidence in judges, seem to be the opposite rocks on which all civil institutions have been wrecked, and between which legislative wisdom has never yet found an open passage.

OF this new system of laws, contracted as it is, a full account cannot be expected in these Memoirs; but that curiosity may not be dismissed without some gratification, it has been thought proper to epitomise the king's *Plan for the Reformation of his Courts**.

‘ THE differences which arise between members of the same society may be terminated

* The plan of the Frederician Code, with a proper attention to localities, is perhaps well worthy of imitation in some other countries, where the evils in general of which the illustrious legislator complains, and which his design has proved capable of lessening, if not of eradicating, have long most notoriously prevailed,

‘ by

- ‘ by a voluntary agreement between the parties,
- ‘ by arbitration, or by a judicial process.

‘ THE two first methods produce more frequently a temporary suspension of disputes than a final termination. Courts of justice are therefore necessary, with a settled method of procedure, of which the most simple is to cite the parties, to hear their pleas, and dismiss them with immediate decision.

‘ THIS, however, is in many cases impracticable, and in others is so seldom practised, that it is frequent rather to incur loss than to seek for legal reparation, by entering a labyrinth of which there is no end.

‘ THIS tediousness of suits keeps the parties in disquiet and perturbation, rouses and perpetuates animosities, exhausts the litigants by expence, retards the progress of their fortune, and discourages strangers from settling.

‘ THESE inconveniences, with which the best regulated polities of Europe are embarrassed, must be removed; not by the total prohibition of suits, which is impossible, but by contraction

‘ traction of proceſſes; by opening an eaſy
‘ way for the appearance of truth, and remov-
‘ ing all obſtructions by which it is concealed.

‘ THE ordonnance of 1667, by which Lewis
‘ the Fourteenth eſtabliſhed an uniformity of
‘ procedure through all his courts, has been con-
‘ ſidered as one of the greateſt benefits of his
‘ reign.

‘ THE King of Pruſſia obſerving that each of
‘ his provinces had a different method of ju-
‘ dicial procedure, propoſed to reduce them all
‘ to one form; which being tried with ſucceſs
‘ in Pomerania, a province remarkable for
‘ contention, he afterwards extended to all his
‘ dominions, ordering the judges to inform
‘ him of any difficulties which aroſe from it.

‘ SOME ſettled method is neceſſary in judicial
‘ procedures. Small and ſimple cauſes might
‘ be decided upon the oral pleas of the two
‘ parties appearing before the judge: but many
‘ caſes are ſo entangled and perplexed, as to
‘ require all the ſkill and abilities of thoſe
‘ who devote their lives to the ſtudy of the
‘ law.

G

ADVOCATES,

‘ ADVOCATES, or men who can understand
‘ and explain the question to be discussed, are
‘ therefore necessary. But these men, instead of
‘ endeavouring to promote justice and discover
‘ truth, have exerted their wits in the defence
‘ of bad causes, by forgeries of facts, and fallacies of argument.

‘ To remedy this evil, the king has ordered
‘ inquiry into the qualifications of the advocates. All those who practise without a regular admission, or who can be convicted of dissingenuous practice, are discarded. And the
‘ judges are commanded to examine which of
‘ the causes now depending have been protracted by the crimes and ignorance of the advocates, and to dismiss those who shall appear
‘ culpable.

‘ WHEN advocates are too numerous to live
‘ by honest practice, they busy themselves in
‘ exciting disputes, and disturbing the community: the number of these to be employed in
‘ each court is therefore fixed.

‘ THE reward of the advocates is fixed with
‘ due regard to the nature of the cause, and the
‘ labour

‘ labour required; but not a penny is received
‘ by them till the suit is ended, that it may be
‘ their interest, as well as that of the clients,
‘ to shorten the process.

‘ No advocate is admitted in petty courts,
‘ small towns, or villages; where the poverty
‘ of the people, and for the most part the low
‘ value of the matter contested, make dispatch
‘ absolutely necessary. In those places the
‘ parties shall appear in person, and the judge
‘ make a summary decision.

‘ THERE must be likewise allowed a subordi-
‘ nation of tribunals, and a power of appeal.
‘ No judge is so skilful and attentive as not
‘ sometimes to err. Few are so honest as not
‘ sometimes to be partial. Petty judges would
‘ become insupportably tyrannical, if they were
‘ not restrained by the fear of a superior judi-
‘ cature; and their decisions would be negli-
‘ gent or arbitrary if they were not in danger
‘ of seeing them examined and cancelled.

‘ THE right of appeal must be restrained,
‘ that causes may not be transferred without
‘ end from court to court; and a peremptory
‘ decision must at last be made.

‘ WHEN an appeal is made to a higher court,
‘ the appellant is allowed only four weeks to
‘ frame his bill, the judge of the lower court
‘ being to transmit to the higher all the evi-
‘ dences and informations. If upon the first
‘ view of the cause thus opened, it shall appear
‘ that the appeal was made without just cause,
‘ the first sentence shall be confirmed, without
‘ citation of the defendant. If any new evidence
‘ shall appear, or any doubts arise, both the
‘ parties shall be heard.

‘ IN the discussion of causes, altercation must
‘ be allowed; yet to altercation some limits must
‘ be put. There are therefore allowed a bill,
‘ an answer, a reply, and a rejoinder, to be de-
‘ livered in writing.

‘ No cause is allowed to be heard in more
‘ than three different courts. To further the
‘ first decision, every advocate is enjoined, under
‘ severe penalties, not to begin a suit till he has
‘ collected all the necessary evidence. If the
‘ first court has decided in an unsatisfactory
‘ manner, an appeal may be made to the se-
‘ cond, and from the second to the third. The
‘ process on each appeal is limited to six months.

‘ The

‘ The third court may indeed pass an erroneous judgment, and then the injury is without redress. But this objection is without end, and therefore without force. No method can be found to preserve humanity from error, but of contest there must some time be an end; and he who thinks himself injured for want of an appeal to a fourth court, must consider himself as suffering for the public.

‘ THERE is a special advocate appointed for the poor.

‘ THE attornies, who had formerly the care of collecting evidence, and of adjusting all the preliminaries of a suit, are now totally dismissed; the whole affair is put into the hands of the advocates, and the office of an attorney is annulled for ever*.

‘ If any man is hindered by some lawful impediment from attending his suit, time will be granted him upon the representation of his case.’

* What glorious havock would be made by such a regulation in England, among the innumerable pettifoggers who at present disgrace the liberal profession of the law!

SUCH

SUCH is the order according to which civil justice is administered through the extensive dominions of the King of Prussia; which, if it exhibits nothing very subtle or profound, affords one proof more that the right is easily discovered, and that men do not so often want ability to find, as willingness to practise it*.

WE now return to the war.

THE time at which the Queen of Hungary was willing to purchase peace by the resignation of Silesia, though it came at last, was not come yet. She had all the spirit, though not all the power, of her ancestors, and could not bear any thought of losing any part of her patrimonial dominions to the enemies which the opinion of her weakness raised every where against her.

IN the beginning of the year 1742, the Elector of Bavaria was invested with the imperial dignity, supported by the arms of France, master of the kingdom of Bohemia, and confederated with the Elector Palatine and the Elector of Saxony who claimed Moravia,

* Another unjustifiable insinuation.

and with the King of Prussia who was in possession of Silesia.

SUCH was the state of the Queen of Hungary, pressed on every side, and on every side preparing for resistance; she yet refused all offers of accommodation, for every prince set peace at a price which she was not yet so far humbled as to pay.

THE King of Prussia was among the most zealous and forward in the confederacy against her. He promised to secure Bohemia to the Emperor, and Moravia to the Elector of Saxony; and finding no enemy in the field able to resist him, he returned to Berlin, and left Schwerin his general to prosecute the conquest.

THE Prussians in the midst of winter took Olmutz, the capital of Moravia, and laid the whole country under contribution. The cold then hindered them from action, and they only blocked up the fortresses of Brinn and Spielberg.

IN the spring, the King of Prussia came again into the field, and undertook the siege of Brinn,
but

but upon the approach of Prince Charles of Lorrain, retired from before it, and quitted Moravia, leaving only a garrison in the capital.

THE condition of the Queen of Hungary was now changed. She was a few months before without money, without troops, incircled with enemies. The Bavarians had entered Austria; Vienna was threatened with a siege, and the queen left it to the fate of war, and retired into Hungary, where she was received with zeal and affection, not unmingled, however, with that neglect which must always be borne by greatness in distress. She bore the disrespect of her subjects with the same firmness as the outrages of her enemies; and at last persuaded the English not to despair of her preservation, by not despairing herself.

VOLTAIRE, in his late history, has asserted, that a large sum was raised for her succour by voluntary subscriptions of the English ladies. It is the great failing of a strong imagination to catch greedily at wonders. He was misinformed, and was perhaps unwilling to learn by a second enquiry a truth less splendid and amusing.

amusing. A contribution was by news-writers upon their own authority, fruitlessly, and, I think, illegally proposed. It ended in nothing. The parliament voted a supply, and five hundred thousand pounds were remitted to her.

It has been always the weakness of the Austrian family to spend in the magnificence of empire those revenues which should be kept for it's defence. The court is splendid, but the treasury is empty; and at the beginning of every war, advantages are gained against them, before their armies can be assembled and equipped*.

THE English money was to the Austrians as a shower to a field, where all the vegetative powers are kept unactive by a long continuance of drought. The armies which had hitherto been hid in mountains and forests,

* This weakness, however it might then prevail, is now very far from existing in the Imperial Court. The present Emperor is indefatigable in augmenting the prosperity of his country, by every rational channel; and whoever should venture to disturb the tranquillity of his subjects, would no doubt find the Austrian armies abundantly prepared for action.

H

started

started out of their retreats, and wherever the queen's standard was erected, nations scarcely known by their names swarmed immediately about it. An army, especially a defensive army, multiplies itself. The contagion of enterprize spreads from one heart to another. Zeal for a native, or detestation of a foreign sovereign; hope of sudden greatness or riches; friendship or emulation between particular men; or, what are perhaps more general and powerful, desire of novelty and impatience of inactivity; fill a camp with adventurers, add rank to rank, and squadron to squadron.

THE queen had still enemies on every part, but she now on every part had armies ready to oppose them. Austria was immediately recovered; the plains of Bohemia were filled with her troops, though the fortresses were garrisoned by the French. The Bavarians were recalled to the defence of their own country, now wasted by the incursions of troops that were called Barbarians, greedy enough of plunder, and daring perhaps beyond the rules of war, but otherwise not more cruel than those whom they attacked. Prince Lobkowitz, with one army, observed the motions of Broglio, the French
general

general in Bohemia; and Prince Charles, with another, put a stop to the advances of the King of Prussia.

It was now the turn of the Prussians to retire. They abandoned Olmutz, and left behind them part of their cannon and their magazines. And the king, finding that Broglio could not long oppose Prince Lobkowitz, hastened into Bohemia to his assistance; and having received a reinforcement of twenty-three thousand men, and taken the castle of Glatz, which being built upon a rock scarcely accessible would have defied all his power had the garrison been furnished with provisions, he purposed to join his allies and prosecute his conquests.

PRINCE Charles, seeing Moravia thus evacuated by the Prussians, determined to garrison the towns which he had just recovered, and pursue the enemy, who by the assistance of the French would have been too powerful for Prince Lobkowitz.

Success had now given confidence to the Austrians, and had proportionably abated the

spirit of their enemies. The Saxons, who had co-operated with the King of Prussia in the conquest of Moravia, of which they expected the perpetual possession, seeing all hopes of sudden acquisition defeated, and the province left again to it's former masters, grew weary of following a prince, whom they considered as no longer acting the part of their confederate, and when they approached the confines of Bohemia, took a different road, and left the Prussians to their own fortune.

THE king continued his march, and Charles his pursuit. At Czaflaw the two armies came in sight of one another, and the Austrians resolved on a decisive day. On the 6th of May, about seven in the morning, the Austrians began the attack: their impetuosity was matched by the firmness of the Prussians. The animosity of the two armies was much inflamed; the Austrians were fighting for their country, and the Prussians were in a place where defeat must inevitably end in death or captivity. The fury of the battle continued four hours; the Prussian horse were at length broken, and the Austrians forced their way to the camp, where the wild troops, who had fought with so much vigour and

and constancy, at the sight of plunder forgot their obedience, nor had any man the least thought but how to load himself with the richest spoils.

WHILE the right wing of the Austrians was thus employed, the main body was left naked, the Prussians recovered from their confusion, and regained the day. Charles was at last forced to retire, and carried with him the standards of his enemies; the proofs of a victory which, though so nearly gained, he had not been able to keep.

THE victory, however, was dearly bought; the Prussian army was much weakened, and the cavalry almost totally destroyed. Peace is easily made when it is necessary to both parties; and the King of Prussia had now reason to believe that the Austrians were not his only enemies. When he found Charles advancing, he sent to Broglie for assistance, and was answered, that he must have orders from Versailles. Such a desertion of his most powerful ally disconcerted him; but the battle was unavoidable.

WHEN

WHEN the Prussians were returned to the camp, the king, hearing that an Austrian officer was brought in mortally wounded, had the condescension to visit him. The officer, struck with this act of humanity, said, after a short conversation—‘ I should die, Sir, contentedly, after this honour, if I might first shew my gratitude to your majesty, by informing you with what allies you are now united; allies that have no intention but to deceive you.’ The king appearing to suspect this intelligence—‘ Sir,’ said the Austrian, ‘ if you will permit me to send a messenger to Vienna, I believe the queen will not refuse to transmit an intercepted letter now in her hands, which will put my report beyond all doubt.’

THE messenger was sent, and the letter transmitted, which contained the order sent to Broglie, who was 1st, forbidden to mix his troops on any occasion with the Prussians. 2d, He was ordered to act always at a distance from the king. 3d, To keep always a body of twenty thousand men to observe the Prussian army. 4th, To observe very closely the motions of the king for important reasons. 5th, To

To hazard nothing, but to pretend want of reinforcements, or the absence of Bellisle.

THE king now with great reason considered himself as disengaged from the confederacy, being deserted by the Saxons, and betrayed by the French; he therefore accepted the mediation of King George, and in three weeks after the battle of Czaflaw made peace with the Queen of Hungary, who granted to him the whole province of Silesia, a country of such extent and opulence, that he is said to receive from it one third part of his revenues*. By one of the articles of this treaty it is stipulated, 'That neither should assist the enemies of the other.'

THE Queen of Hungary thus disentangled on one side, and set free from the most formidable of her enemies, soon persuaded the Saxons to peace; took possession of Bavaria; drove the emperor, after all his imaginary conquests, to the shelter of a neutral town, where

* The greater part, but not the whole province of Silesia, was ceded to the King by the Treaty of Breslaw, together with the county of Glatz. The entire province of Silesia has never been possessed, or even claimed, by the King of Prussia.

he was treated as a fugitive; and besieged the French in Prague, in the city which they had taken from her.

HAVING thus obtained Silesia, the King of Prussia returned to his own capital, where he reformed his laws, forbid the torture of criminals, concluded a defensive alliance with England, and applied himself to the augmentation of his army.

THIS treaty of peace with the Queen of Hungary, was one of the first proofs given by the King of Prussia of the secrecy of his counsels. Bellisle, the French general, was with him in the camp as a friend and coadjutor in appearance, but in truth a spy, and a writer of intelligence. Men who have great confidence in their own penetration, are often by that confidence deceived; they imagine that they can pierce through all the involutions of intrigue, without the diligence necessary to weaker minds, and therefore sit idle and secure; they believe that none can hope to deceive them, and therefore that none will try. Bellisle, with all his reputation of sagacity, though he was in the Prussian camp, gave every day fresh assurances of
the

the king's adherence to the allies; while Broglie, who commanded the army at a distance, discovered sufficient reason to suspect his desertion. Broglie was flighted, and Bellisle believed, till on the 11th of June the treaty was signed, and the king declared his resolution to keep a neutrality.

THIS is one of the great performances of polity which mankind seem agreed to celebrate and admire; yet to all this nothing was necessary but the determination of a very few men to be silent*.

FROM this time the Queen of Hungary proceeded with an uninterrupted torrent of success. The French driven from station to station, and deprived of fortress after fortress, were at last inclosed with their two generals, Bellisle and Broglie, in the walls of Prague, which they had stored with all provisions necessary to a town besieged, and where they defended themselves three months before any prospect appeared of relief.

* How easily can a strong rhetorical writer lessen every species of human excellence! Dr. Johnson possessed this art in a very eminent degree, and he has not been sparing in the use of it.

THE Austrians having been engaged chiefly in the field, and in sudden and tumultuary excursions rather than a regular war, had no great degree of skill in attacking or defending towns. They likewise would naturally consider all the mischiefs done to the city, as falling ultimately on themselves, and therefore were willing to gain it by time rather than by force.

It was apparent that, how long soever Prague might be defended, it must be yielded at last, and therefore all arts were tried to obtain an honourable capitulation. The messengers from the city were sent back sometimes unheard, but always with this answer, that no terms would be allowed, but that they should yield themselves prisoners of war.

THE condition of the garrison was, in the eyes of all Europe, desperate; but the French, to whom the praise of spirit and activity cannot be denied, resolved to make an effort for the honour of their arms. Maillebois was at that time encamped with his army in Westphalia. Orders were sent him to relieve Prague. The enterprize was considered as romantick.

Maillebois

Maillebois was a march of forty days distant from Bohemia, the passes were narrow, and the ways foul; and it was likely that Prague would be taken before he could reach it. The march was, however, begun; the army, being joined by that of Count Saxe, consisted of fifty thousand men, who, notwithstanding all the difficulties which two Austrian armies could put in their way, at last entered Bohemia. The siege of Prague, though not raised, was remitted, and a communication was now opened to it with the country. But the Austrians, by perpetual intervention, hindered the garrison from joining their friends. The officers of Maillebois incited him to a battle, because the army was hourly lessening by the want of provisions; but instead of pressing on to Prague, he retired into Bavaria, and completed the ruin of the emperor's territories.

THE court of France, disappointed and offended, conferred the chief command upon Broglio, who escaped from the besiegers with very little difficulty, and kept the Austrians employed till Bellisle, by a sudden sally, quitted Prague, and without any great loss joined the main army. Broglio then retired over the

Rhine into the French dominions, wasting in his retreat the country which he had undertaken to protect, and burning towns and destroying magazines of corn with such wantonness, as gave reason to believe that he expected commendation from his court for any mischiefs done, by whatever means.

THE Austrians pursued their advantages, recovered all their strong places, in some of which French garrisons had been left, and made themselves masters of Bavaria, by taking not only Munich the capital, but Ingolstadt, the strongest fortification in the elector's dominions, where they found a great number of cannon and quantity of ammunition, intended, in the dreams of projected greatness, for the siege of Vienna, all the archives of the state, the plate and ornaments of the electoral palace, and what had been considered as most worthy of preservation. Nothing but the warlike stores were taken away. An oath of allegiance to the queen was required of the Bavarians, but without any explanation whether temporary or perpetual.

THE emperor lived at Francfort, in the security that was allowed to neutral places, but
without

without much respect from the German princes; except that, upon some objections made by the queen to the validity of his election, the King of Prussia declared himself determined to support him in the imperial dignity with all his power.

THIS may be considered as a token of no great affection to the Queen of Hungary, but it seems not to have raised much alarm. The German princes were afraid of new broils. To contest the election of an emperor once invested and acknowledged, would be to overthrow the whole Germanic constitution. Perhaps no election by plurality of suffrages was ever made among human beings, to which it might not be objected that voices were procured by illicit influence.

SOME suspicions, however, were raised by the king's declaration, which he endeavoured to obviate, by ordering his ministers to declare at London and at Vienna, that he was resolved not to violate the treaty of Breslaw. This declaration was sufficiently ambiguous, and could not satisfy those whom it might silence. But this was not a time for nice disquisitions: to distrust

distrust the King of Prussia might have provoked him, and it was most convenient to consider him as a friend, till he appeared openly as an enemy.

ABOUT the middle of the year 1744, he raised new alarms by collecting his troops, and putting them in motion. The Earl of Hindford about this time demanded the troops stipulated for the protection of Hanover, not perhaps because they were thought necessary, but that the king's designs might be guessed from his answer; which was, that troops were not granted for the defence of any country, till that country was in danger, and that he could not believe the Elector of Hanover to be in much dread of an invasion, since he had withdrawn the native troops, and put them into the pay of England.

HE had, undoubtedly, now formed designs which made it necessary that his troops should be kept together, and the time soon came when the scene was to be opened. Prince Charles of Lorraine having chased the French out of Bavaria, lay for some months encamped on the Rhine, endeavouring to gain a passage into
Alsace.

Alsace. His attempts had long been evaded by the skill and vigilance of the French general, till at last, June 21, 1744, he executed his design, and lodged his army in the French dominions, to the surprise and joy of a great part of Europe. It was now expected that the territories of France would in their turn feel the miseries of war, and the nation which so long kept the world in alarm be taught at last the value of peace.

THE King of russia now saw the Austrian troops at a great distance from him, engaged in a foreign country, against the most powerful of all their enemies. Now, therefore, was the time to discover that he had lately made a treaty at Francfort with the emperor, by which he had engaged, that as the court of Vienna and it's allies appeared backward to re-establish the tranquillity of the empire, and more cogent methods appeared necessary, he, being animated with a desire of co-operating towards the pacification of Germany, should make an expedition for the conquest of Bohemia, and to put it into the possession of the emperor, his heirs, and successors, for ever; in gratitude for which, the emperor should resign to him and his

his successors, a certain number of lordships, which are now part of the kingdom of Bohemia. His Imperial Majesty likewise guaranties to the King of Prussia the perpetual possession of Upper Silesia, and the king guaranties to the emperor the perpetual possession of Upper Austria, as soon as he shall have occupied it by conquest.

IT is easy to discover that the king began the war upon other motives than zeal for peace, and that whatever respect he was willing to shew to the Emperor, he did not purpose to assist him without reward. In prosecution of this treaty he put his troops in motion; and according to his promise, while the Austrians were invading France, he invaded Bohemia.

PRINCES have this remaining of humanity, that they think themselves obliged not to make war without a reason. Their reasons are indeed not always very satisfactory. Lewis XIV. seemed to think his own glory a sufficient motive for the invasion of Holland. The Czar attacked Charles of Sweden, because he had not been treated with sufficient respect when he made a journey in disguise. The King of Prussia

sia having an opportunity of attacking his neighbour, was not long without his reasons. On July 30, he published his declaration, in which he declares—

THAT he can no longer stand an idle spectator of the troubles in Germany, but finds himself obliged to make use of force, to restore the power of the laws, and the authority of the Emperor.

THAT the Queen of Hungary has treated the Emperor's hereditary dominions with inexpressible cruelty.

THAT Germany has been over-run with foreign troops, which have marched through neutral countries, without the customary requisitions.

THAT the Emperor's troops have been attacked under neutral fortresses, and obliged to abandon the empire, of which their master is the head.

THAT the Imperial dignity has been treated with indecency by the Hungarian troops.

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THAT

THAT the queen, declaring the election of the Emperor void, and the Diet of Francfort illegal, had not only violated the Imperial dignity, but injured all the princes who have the right of election.

THAT he has no particular quarrel with the Queen of Hungary, and that he desires nothing for himself, and only enters as an auxiliary into a war for the liberties of Germany.

THAT the Emperor had offered to quit his pretension to the dominions of Austria, on condition that his hereditary countries be restored to him.

THAT this proposal had been made to the King of England at Hanau, and rejected in such a manner as shewed that the King of England had no intention to restore peace, but rather to make his advantage of the troubles.

THAT the mediation of the Dutch had been desired, but that they declined to interpose, knowing the inflexibility of the English and Austrian courts.

THAT

THAT the same terms were again offered at Vienna, and again rejected: that therefore the queen must impute it to her own council, that her enemies find new allies.

THAT he is not fighting for any interest of his own, that he demands nothing for himself, but is determined to exert all his power in defence of the Emperor, in vindication of the right of election, and in support of the liberties of Germany, which the Queen of Hungary would enslave.

WHEN this declaration was sent to the Prussian minister in England, it was accompanied with a remonstrance to the king, in which many of the foregoing positions were repeated; the Emperor's candour and disinterestedness were magnified; the dangerous designs of the Austrians were displayed; it was imputed to them as the most flagrant violation of the Germanic constitution, that they had driven the Emperor's troops out of the empire; the publick spirit and generosity of his Prussian majesty were again heartily declared; and it was said that this quarrel having no connection

with English interests, the English ought not to interpose.

AUSTRIA and all her allies were put into amazement by this declaration, which at once dismounted them from the summit of success, and obliged them to fight through the war a second time. What succours, or what promises, Prussia received from France, was never publicly known; but it is not to be doubted, that a prince so watchful of opportunity, sold assistance, when it was so much wanted, at the highest rate; nor can it be supposed that he exposed himself to so much hazard only for the freedom of Germany, and a few petty districts in Bohemia.

THE French, who from ravaging the empire at discretion, and wasting whatever they found, either among enemies or friends, were now driven into their own dominions, and in their own dominions were insulted and pursued, were on a sudden by this new auxiliary restored to their former superiority, at least were disburthened of their invaders, and delivered from their terrors. And all the enemies of the House of Bourbon saw with indignation

tion and amazement, the recovery of that power which they had with so much cost and bloodshed brought low, and which their animosity and elation had disposed them to imagine yet lower than it was.

THE Queen of Hungary still retained her firmness. The Prussian declaration was not long without an answer, which was transmitted to the European princes with some observations on the Prussian minister's remonstrance to the court of Vienna, which he was ordered by his master to read to the Austrian council, but not to deliver. The same caution was practised before, when the Prussians, after the Emperor's death, invaded Silesia. This artifice of political debate may, perhaps, be numbered by the admirers of greatness among the refinements of conduct; but as it is a method of proceeding not very difficult to be contrived or practised, as it can be of very rare use to honesty or wisdom, and as it has been long known to that class of men whose safety depends upon secrecy, though hitherto applied chiefly in petty cheats and slight transactions, I do not see that it can much advance the reputation of regal understanding, or indeed that it can add more
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to the safety, than it takes away from the honour, of him that shall adopt it.

THE queen, in her answer, after charging the King of Prussia with breach of the treaty of Breslaw, and observing how much her enemies will exult to see the peace now the third time broken by him, declares—

THAT she had no intention to injure the rights of the electors, and that she calls in question not the event, but the manner of the election.

THAT she had spared the Emperor's troops with great tenderness, and that they were driven out of the empire only because they were in the service of France.

THAT she is so far from disturbing the peace of the empire, that the only commotions now raised in it, are the effect of the armaments of the King of Prussia.

NOTHING is more tedious than public records, when they relate to affairs which by distance of time or place lose their power to
interest

interest the reader. Every thing grows little, as it grows remote; and of things thus diminished, it is sufficient to survey the aggregate, without a minute examination of the parts.

IT is easy to perceive, that if the King of Prussia's reasons be sufficient, ambition or animosity can never want a plea for violence and invasion. What he charges upon the Queen of Hungary, the waste of countries, the expulsion of the Bavarians, and the employment of foreign troops, is the unavoidable consequence of a war inflamed on either side to the utmost violence. All these grievances subsisted when he made the peace, and therefore they could very little justify it's breach.

IT is true, that every prince of the empire is obliged to support the Imperial dignity, and assist the Emperor when his rights are violated. And every subsequent contract must be understood in a sense consistent with former obligations: nor had the king power to make a peace on terms contrary to that constitution by which he held a place among the Germanic electors. But he could have easily discovered, that not the Emperor, but the Duke of Bavaria,

varia, was the queen's enemy, not the administrator of the imperial power, but the claimant of the Austrian dominions. Nor did his allegiance to the Emperor, supposing the Emperor injured, oblige him to more than a succour of ten thousand men. But ten thousand men could not conquer Bohemia, and without the conquest of Bohemia he could receive no reward for the zeal and fidelity which he so loudly professed.

THE success of this enterprize he had taken all possible precaution to secure. He was to invade a country guarded only by the faith of treaties, and therefore left unarmed, and unprovided of all defence. He had engaged the French to attack Prince Charles before he should repass the Rhine, by which the Austrians would at least have been hindered from a speedy march into Bohemia: they were likewise to yield him such other assistance as he might want.

RELYING, therefore, upon the promises of the French, he resolved to attempt the ruin of the House of Austria; and in August 1744, broke into Bohemia, at the head of an hundred
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and four thousand men. When he entered the country, he published a proclamation, promising, that his army should observe the strictest discipline, and that those who made no resistance should be suffered to remain at quiet in their habitations. He required that all arms, in the custody of whomsoever they might be placed, should be given up, and put into the hands of public officers: He still declared himself to act only as an auxiliary to the Emperor, and with no other design than to establish peace and tranquillity throughout Germany, his dear country.

IN this proclamation there is one paragraph of which I do not remember any precedent. He threatens, that if any peasant shall be found with arms, he shall be hanged without further enquiry; and that if any lord shall connive at his vassals keeping arms in their custody, his village shall be reduced to ashes.

IT is hard to find upon what pretence the King of Prussia could treat the Bohemians as criminals, for preparing to defend their native country, or maintain their allegiance to their lawful sovereign against an invader, whether

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he appears principal or auxiliary, whether he professes to intend tranquillity or confusion.

HIS progress was such as gave great hopes to the enemies of Austria; like Cæsar, he conquered as he advanced, and met with no opposition till he reached the walls of Prague. The indignation and resentment of the Queen of Hungary may be easily conceived; the alliance of Francfort was now laid open to all Europe, and the partition of the Austrian dominions was again publicly projected. They were to be shared among the Emperor, the King of Prussia, the Elector Palatine, and the Landgrave of Hesse. All the powers of Europe who had dreamed of controuling France, were awakened to their former terrors; all that had been done was now to be done again; and every court, from the Straits of Gibraltar to the Frozen Sea, was filled with exultation or terror, with schemes of conquest, or precautions for defence.

THE king, delighted with his progress, and expecting, like other mortals elated with success, that his prosperity could not be interrupted, continued his march, and began, in the latter

latter end of September, the siege of Prague. He had gained several of the outer posts, when he was informed that the convoy which attended his artillery was attacked by an unexpected party of the Austrians. The king went immediately to their assistance with the third part of his army, and found his troops put to flight, and the Austrians hastening away with his cannons: such a loss would have disabled him at once. He fell upon the Austrians, whose number would not enable them to withstand him, recovered his artillery, and having also defeated Bathiani, raised his batteries, and there being no artillery to be played against him, he destroyed a great part of the city. He then ordered four attacks to be made at once, and reduced the besieged to such extremities, that in fourteen days the governor was obliged to yield the place.

AT the attack commanded by Schwerin, a grenadier is reported to have mounted the bastion alone, and to have defended himself for some time with his sword, till his followers mounted after him; for this act of bravery the king made him a lieutenant, and gave him a patent of nobility.

NOTHING now remained but that the Austrians should lay aside all thought of invading France, and apply their whole power to their own defence. Prince Charles, at the first news of the Prussian invasion, prepared to repass the Rhine. This the French, according to their contract with the King of Prussia, should have attempted to hinder; but they knew by experience that the Austrians would not be beaten without resistance, and that resistance always incommodes an assailant. As the King of Prussia rejoiced in the distance of the Austrians, whom he considered as entangled in the French territories; the French rejoiced in the necessity of their return, and pleased themselves with the prospect of easy conquests, while powers, whom they considered with equal malevolence, should be employed in massacring each other.

PRINCE Charles took the opportunity of bright moonshine to repass the Rhine; and Noailles, who had early intelligence of his motions, gave him very little disturbance, but contented himself with attacking the rear-guard, and when they retired to the main body ceased his pursuit.

THE

THE king, upon the reduction of Prague, struck a medal, which had on one side a plan of the town, with this inscription—

PRAGUE TAKEN BY THE KING OF PRUSSIA,

SEPTEMBER 16, 1744;

FOR THE THIRD TIME IN THREE YEARS.

On the other side were two verses, in which he prayed, that his conquests might produce peace. He then marched forward with the rapidity which constitutes his military character, took possession of almost all Bohemia, and began to talk of entering Austria and besieging Vienna.

THE queen was not yet wholly without resource. The Elector of Saxony, whether invited or not, was not comprised in the union of Francfort; and as every sovereign is growing less as his next neighbour is growing greater, he could not heartily wish success to a confederacy which was to aggrandize the other powers of Germany. The Prussians gave him likewise a particular and immediate provocation to oppose them; for when they departed to the conquest of Bohemia, with all
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the elation of imaginary success, they passed through his dominions with unlicensed and contemptuous disdain of his authority. As the approach of Prince Charles gave a new prospect of events, he was easily persuaded to enter into an alliance with the queen, whom he furnished with a very large body of troops.

THE King of Prussia having left a garrison in Prague, which he commanded to put the burghers to death if they left their houses in the night, went forward to take the other towns and fortresses, expecting, perhaps, that Prince Charles would be interrupted in his march; but the French, though they appeared to follow him, either could not or would not overtake him.

IN a short time, by marches pressed on with the utmost eagerness, Charles reached Bohemia, leaving the Bavarians to regain the possession of the wasted plains of their country, which their enemies, who still kept the strong places, might again seize at will. At the approach of the Austrian army, the courage of the King of Prussia seemed to have failed him. He retired from post to post, and evacuated
town

town after town, and fortrefs after fortrefs, without resistance, or appearance of resistance, as if he was resigning them to the rightful owners.

IT might have been expected that he should have made some effort to secure Prague; but after a faint attempt to dispute the passage of the Elbe, he ordered his garrison of eleven thousand men to quit the place. They left behind them their magazines and heavy artillery, among which were seven pieces of remarkable excellence, called The Seven Electors. But they took with them their field cannon, and a great number of carriages laden with stores and plunder, which they were forced to leave in their way to the Saxons and Austrians that harrassed their march. They at last entered Silesia with the loss of about a third part.

THE King of Prussia suffered much in his retreat; for besides the military stores, which he left every where behind him, even to the cloaths of his troops, there was a want of provisions in his army, and consequently frequent desertions and many diseases; and a soldier sick or killed was equally lost to a flying army.

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AT last he re-entered his own territories, and having stationed his troops in places of security, returned for a time to Berlin, where he forbade all to speak either ill or well of the campaign.

To what end such a prohibition could conduce, it is difficult to discover: there is no country in which men can be forbidden to know what they know, and what is universally known may as well be spoken. It is true, that in popular governments seditious discourses may inflame the vulgar, but in such governments they cannot be restrained, and in absolute monarchies they are of little effect.

WHEN the Prussians invaded Bohemia, and this whole nation was fired with resentment, the King of England gave orders in his palace that none should mention his nephew with disrespect; by this command he maintained the decency necessary between princes, without enforcing, and probably without expecting, obedience but in his own presence.

THE King of Prussia's edict regarded only himself, and therefore it is difficult to tell what
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was his motive, unless he intended to spare himself the mortification of absurd and illiberal flattery, which to a mind stung with disgrace must have been in the highest degree painful and disgusting.

MODERATION in prosperity is a virtue very difficult to all mortals; forbearance of revenge, when revenge is within reach, is scarcely ever to be found among princes. Now was the time when the Queen of Hungary might perhaps have made peace on her own terms, but keenness of resentment, and arrogance of success, withheld her from the due use of the present opportunity. It is said that the King of Prussia, in his retreat, sent letters to Prince Charles, which were supposed to contain ample concessions, but were sent back unopened. The King of England offered likewise to mediate between them, but his propositions were rejected at Vienna, where a resolution was taken not only to revenge the interruption of their success on the Rhine by the recovery of Silesia, but to reward the Saxons for their seasonable help, by giving them part of the Prussian dominions.

IN the beginning of the year 1745 died the Emperor Charles of Bavaria, the treaty of Francfort was consequently at an end, and the King of Prussia being no longer able to maintain the character of auxiliary to the Emperor, and having avowed no other reason for the war, might have honourably withdrawn his forces, and on his own principles have complied with terms of peace: but no terms were offered him; the queen pursued him with the utmost ardour of hostility, and the French left him to his own conduct, and his own destiny.

HIS Bohemian conquests were already lost, and he was now chased back into Silesia, where, at the beginning of the year, the war continued in an equilibration by alternate losses and advantages. In April, the Elector of Bavaria seeing his dominions over-run by the Austrians, and receiving very little succour from the French, made a peace with the Queen of Hungary upon easy conditions, and the Austrians had more troops to employ against Prussia.

BUT the revolutions of war will not suffer human presumption to remain long unchecked,
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The peace of Bavaria was scarcely concluded, when the battle of Fontenoy was lost, and all the allies of Austria called upon her to exert her utmost power for the preservation of the Low Countries; and a few days after the loss at Fontenoy, the first battle between the Prussians and the combined army of Austrians and Saxons was fought at Niedburg in Silesia.

THE particulars of this battle were variously reported by the different parties, and published in the journals of that time; to transcribe them would be tedious and useless, because accounts of battles are not easily understood, and because there are no means of determining to which of the relations credit should be given. It is sufficient that they all end in claiming or allowing a compleat victory to the King of Prussia, who gained all the Austrian artillery, killed four thousand, took seven thousand prisoners, with the loss, according to the Prussian narrative, of only sixteen hundred men.

HE now advanced again into Bohemia, where, however, he made no great progress. The Queen of Hungary, though defeated, was not subdued. She poured in her troops from

all parts to the reinforcement of Prince Charles, and determined to continue the struggle with all her power. The king saw that Bohemia was an unpleasing and inconvenient theatre of war, in which he should be ruined by a miscarriage, and should get little by a victory. Saxony was left defenceless, and if it was conquered might be plundered.

HE therefore published a declaration against the Elector of Saxony; and, without waiting for reply, invaded his dominions. This invasion produced another battle at Standentz, which ended, as the former, to the advantage of the Prussians. The Austrians had some advantage in the beginning; and their irregular troops, who are always daring, and always ravenous, broke into the Prussian camp, and carried away the military chest. But this was easily repaired by the spoils of Saxony.

THE Queen of Hungary was still inflexible, and hoped that fortune would at last change. She recruited once more her army, and prepared to invade the territories of Brandenburg; but the King of Prussia's activity prevented all her designs. One part of his forces seized
Leipfic,

Leipfic, and the other once more defeated the Saxons; the King of Poland fled from his dominions, Prince Charles retired into Bohemia. The King of Prussia entered Dresden as a conqueror, exacted very severe contributions from the whole country, and the Austrians and Saxons were at last compelled to receive from him such a peace as he would grant. He imposed no severe conditions, except the payment of the contributions; made no new claim of dominions; and, with the Elector Palatine, acknowledged the Duke of Tuscany for Emperor.*

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* This moderation in the King of Prussia, when it is acknowledged he might have made his own terms, by no means favours the idea that he had entered into the war from mere mercenary motives. It seems idle to say, that he was not, as a Prince of the Empire, obliged to go so far: where a man, however mistaken, feels it his duty to give any assistance at all, he is bound in honour to make that assistance as effectual as possible, without meanly resorting to the dead letter of any agreement, while his heart tells him the vital spirit of the original compact still remains unsatisfied. Had Dr. Johnson been equally well disposed, the decisive part which the King of Prussia on this occasion took, might have furnished a much happier subject for panegyrick than it has done for censure. But all the world had agreed to consider the King of Prussia as a most exalted character;
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THE lives of princes, like the histories of nations, have their periods. We shall here suspend our narrative of the King of Prussia, who was now at the height of human greatness, giving laws to his enemies, and courted by all the powers of Europe.

and Dr. Johnson, who sometimes chose to differ from the rest of the world, for no better reason than because he was determined to be singular, sat down to pen these memoirs in that frame of mind, and was consequently resolved to lower him. To this only can be ascribed the egregious prejudice so often manifest; and which, though it has occasionally given rise to the most captivating general but misapplied remarks, can never cease to detract from the purity of that biographical excellence which, sterling as it still remains, it were greatly to be wished had admitted a less unamiable alloy.

MEMOIRS
OF THE
KING OF PRUSSIA.

PART II.

BY MR. HARRISON.

THOUGH the first part of these Memoirs was written by Dr. Johnson in the year 1756, they do not appear to have been brought lower than the treaty of Dresden, in 1745; or, at farthest, that of Aix-la-Chapelle, which two years afterwards gave peace to Europe.

THE King of Prussia, during the short intervals of peace which he had hitherto since his accession enjoyed, never failed to exert himself for the improvement of his country, and the consequential felicity of his subjects. In the more lasting tranquillity which his valour had now obtained him, he seemed resolved to convince the world, that it was possible for a great sovereign to excite as much admiration by his prudent and skilful conduct in the mild
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and amiable arts of peace, as could possibly be obtained from the most brilliant success in the dreadful but necessary operations of war.

HE invited into his dominions men of learning, and ingenious artists, of all descriptions, and of every nation; he converted the ruinous edifice at Potzdam, the disgraceful residence of his deceased father, into a magnificent and splendid palace; he enlarged and improved the town of Potzdam, and the city of Berlin, where he erected many noble public buildings, and formed a variety of national and beneficial establishments; he peopled the waste lands and deserts, making upwards of three hundred towns and villages arise, as by enchantment, on sites which had for ages been mere noxious and unproductive marshes, till drained, cleared, and cultivated, by his great skill and perseverance; he amended defective laws, made commercial regulations, and civilized and polished the rudeness and barbarism of his people: in short, he increased, by all possible means, the conveniences and comforts of his numerous subjects; and cultivated, in himself, by way of relaxation, those elegant
arts

arts in which he was so admirably well qualified to shine.

AMONG other ingenious men whom the king at this period invited to partake of his protection, he was unfortunate enough to prevail on Voltaire to reside with him at Potzdam. The monarch's attachment to literature, and his too great veneration of that volatile philosopher's abilities, had frequently led him to wish that he might become the patron of such transcendent genius. He probably hoped to have made the Prussian court eminent for encouraging men of letters; and thus more rapidly to have spread science through his own country, as well as to attract the respect of other nations, by rivalling their intellectual strength with an éclat equal to that with which he had hitherto opposed their corporeal force. But he soon found the delusion of this agreeable theory. An union of learned men, it is true, must inevitably effect wonders; but that union, however desirable, is seldom to be expected. The pride of superiority is prevalent in every breast, though the claim of equality may alone issue from the lips; whoever en-

croaches on what one has been accustomed to consider as his own department of science, never fails to meet the envy or resentment of his antagonist; the grave philosopher considers the gay one as frivolous and superficial, and the gay philosopher esteems the grave one as dull and abstracted: thus they all deem themselves rivals; and, like all rivals, are constantly meditating attacks against each other, or engaged in actual hostilities. This was remarkably the case on the present occasion. The king had already, under his immediate patronage, the celebrated Maupertuis; and, what was still worse, that philosopher had been appointed President of the Academy of Sciences at Berlin. Voltaire, too, had an appointment; more profitable, no doubt, but it was not to preside over science, nor did it take away from Maupertuis the power of doing so: consequently, it was impossible he should be quite satisfied, though he had a salary of twenty thousand livres, or eight hundred guineas, a year, annexed to the title of the King's Chamberlain. Voltaire coveted the situation of Maupertuis, and Maupertuis sickened for the salary of Voltaire. They were perpetually wrangling;

wrangling; and the king, in his convivial hours, for a long time enjoyed the pleasantries which originated from the bickerings of his philosophical guests, and in which he not unfrequently condescended to join. By degrees, however, these amusements became less entertaining: animosity increased, wit diminished; and the contest, at length, grew at once serious and disgusting. The parties were less pleased with each other; petulance and ill-nature succeeded to pleasantry and good-humour; and it is more than probable, that those who had been so anxious to come together, were now impatient for some event which might speedily produce a final separation. Voltaire was told that the King had spoken freely of his character and conduct; the King, that Voltaire had dropped disrespectful speeches about him and his literary productions; and Maupertuis heard every where that his peculiarities were perpetually represented in ludicrous points of view by the malicious wit of his brother philosopher. Nothing is more certain, than that the best friends may be easily divided by a busy tatter, even where the parties are equally worthy; and the busy-body tells only the truth; but a busy-

body is seldom very remarkable for an extraordinary attachment to veracity, and few friends are uniformly worthy: and thus are nine-tenths of the world made continually out of humour with each other. This is an axiom in morals which the reader may easily improve.

It is not, perhaps, at this instant known, after all that the world has been pestered with respecting the differences between the King of Prussia and Voltaire, whether the hasty departure of that extraordinary man from the Prussian dominions was occasioned by these trivial disputes and impertinences; by the detection of some dishonourable and mercenary transactions in his office of Chamberlain; or by a discovery that the philosopher, while ostensibly and honourably employed in promoting the arts of peace, was secretly and basely engaged in political intrigues, pregnant with the seeds of a future war against his generous benefactor, at the instance of a court which has ever been notorious for encouraging the blackest perfidy. Indeed, all these reasons are, by some intelligent persons, supposed to have conjunctively operated in procuring his disgrace.

VOLTAIRE'S

VOLTAIRE's residence in Prussia was of no very long duration: he went thither in June 1750, and quitted it early in the year 1753. The King, whatever had been Voltaire's fault, is known to have generously forgiven him: but Voltaire, like inferior aggressors, never ceased to hate the person whom he had once descended to injure. It would, however, be perhaps doing some injustice to his memory, already enough loaded with obloquy, to consider him as the real author of all the detestable libels on the character of the King of Prussia, which have been lately obtruded on the world under the sanction of his name.

THE harmony which before Voltaire's arrival had constantly subsisted in the court of Potzdam, was very soon restored by his absence; and the king gained some valuable experience, to compensate for the mortifications he had felt from the temporary interruption of his felicity. His exertions for the advantage of his country never once slackened; he was unwearied in his attentions; and he had every day the happiness to behold his subjects grow more comfortable in themselves, and more respectable in the eyes of surrounding nations.

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THESE laudable pursuits, however, were too soon interrupted by the renewal of war, that cruel destroyer of the arts.

So early as the beginning of the year 1749, the king had been apprehensive, from the dispositions of certain northern powers, and the intrigues of the French cabinet, that the tranquillity of Europe was likely to be again invaded. Russia, Sweden, Denmark, and Austria, as well as France, were all making warlike preparations; and even England, not very remarkable for early penetrating the designs of insidious neighbours, had already taken the alarm. It was not for a monarch of the King of Prussia's vigilance and activity to remain idle amidst so many hostile arrangements; he accordingly kept an army of 150,000 men in constant readiness to march, and published the following exposition of his motives—That he considered peace and union among the princes of Europe, as the chief happiness to which they can aspire, and had therefore greatly rejoiced to see the foundations of that desirable state laid by the contracting parties in the late treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle—that nothing more

was

was wanting to render this happiness universal, than the dispersion of those clouds which seemed to be gathering in the north, and the effects of which he had laboured as much as possible to prevent—that those clouds, nevertheless, were still louring, and gave reason to apprehend they might produce some event capable of disturbing the tranquillity of the north, unless Divine Providence should preserve Europe from this disaster—that the extraordinary movements made in the dominions of some neighbouring powers, and the armaments and preparations carrying on there, sufficiently evinced those powers to be filled with similar apprehensions—that it became the prudence of sovereigns, when they beheld events likely in their consequences to influence the peace of their dominions, to take long beforehand the necessary precautions against any sudden surprise—and that, on these accounts, he had judged it expedient not to lose any time in making such dispositions with the army, as might best serve to keep at a distance from his country all the unforeseen dangers likely otherwise to molest the repose of his faithful subjects.

THESE black clouds, however, which then menaced Europe, were soon happily blown over; and, perhaps, the air and spirit of this declaration served in a great measure to disperse them. But though clouds may for a while be dispersed, they will generally again form; collect in greater force; and, at length, violently descend, not unfrequently on the very spot from whence they were originally driven.

THE king, however engaged in peaceful arrangements, neglected no opportunity to obtain the best intelligence respecting the true dispositions of the Empress Queen and her allies; and he at length discovered, by means and at a period alike inscrutable, that the treaty entered into between the courts of Vienna and Petersburg, so long since as May 1746, ostensibly with no other view than an innocent and mutual defence of each other, contained in reality some concealed articles extremely hostile to his majesty. The King of Poland, too, had been prevailed on to become a party in this secret league; though the proximity of his situation to so formidable an enemy, and his past experience how truly formidable that enemy was, had obliged him to decline adding his signature,

nature, the formality of which was dispensed with by the confederated powers, who nevertheless agreed that he should receive his proportionate share in the eventual partition of the Prussian dominions.

It was probably about the time of this discovery, that the court of London, without the smallest knowledge of any such transaction, had entered into a subsidiary treaty with Russia for the protection of Hanover, then strongly menaced by France.

THIS treaty, which was concluded in the year 1755, considerably alarmed the King of Prussia; and he immediately signified to all the courts of Europe his determined resolution to oppose the entrance of all foreign troops into the empire, under any pretence whatsoever.

THUS the motives of the King of Prussia, and those of his Britannick majesty, though arising from different causes, came out to be exactly the same; the former being as apprehensive of the Russians, as the latter of the French: and this coincidence of sentiments brought on a negociation, which ended in the

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famous

famous treaty of January 1756, between Great Britain and Prussia; followed, in a few months, by that between the courts of Versailles, Vienna, and Petersburg, which made such an extraordinary revolution in the publick aspect of European politicks, and laid the foundation of the succeeding dreadful war.

LARGE armaments were now prepared by the Empress-queen in Bohemia and Moravia, and lines of Hungarians and Croats posted on the frontiers of Silesia; a considerable body of Russians were marched towards Courland; and the King of Poland, Elector of Saxony, under the pretence of a mere military amusement, raised in that country an army of 16,000 men, to secure the strong and important pass of Pirna.

THE King of Prussia saw plainly what was intended by these arrangements; and, detaching a few regiments into Pomerania, putting his fortresses in Silesia into a state of defence against any sudden attack, and marching some troops towards his provinces in Westphalia, he demanded clear and categorical answers from the court of Vienna respecting the warlike preparations that were going forward, with a positive

positive assurance that no hostile attack should be made on his territories either in that or the succeeding year; hinting, at the same time, that he was by no means unapprized of the secret league with the court of Peterfburg.

To these reasonable and judicious requisitions, the King of Prussia received only equivocal and haughty replies; and he resolved instantly to begin the war which he now considered as inevitable.

BEING always in readiness for action, from the peculiar excellence of the Prussian discipline, he lost not another moment in marching a powerful army towards Saxony.

THIS vigorous step taken that his enemies might perceive he was not unprepared for war, he thought it advisable to convince the world that he was as little disinclined to peace. His minister was now instructed once more to apply to the court of Vienna; with assurances that, though he had already taken the field, he would instantly recal his forces, on receiving a clear and solemn declaration, that there was no design to invade his dominions.

HAPPY might it have been for Europe, if the Empress-queen, already too fatally experienced in all the shocking calamities and horrors of war, had at this critical juncture possessed sufficient true magnanimity to have abandoned her secret designs; and thus averted those calamities and horrors which so many of her own subjects, as well as those of her allies, and their powerful rivals, were by her haughty and obdurate conduct long destined to feel!

HER reply was again grossly equivocal, and the King of Prussia proceeded with his army.

THOUGH there is, it must be acknowledged, the utmost reason to suppose, that the King of Prussia, on his first marching for Saxony, intended to seize on a country which, from it's contiguity to his Brandenburg dominions, would at once have furnished a dangerous and continual inlet for the confederates, and proved an effectual barrier against his own designs on Bohemia—while the possession of it not only prevented all apprehensions from an enemy so domestick, but opened a ready way into Bohemia, and secured a safe retreat for his army from the consequences of any miscarriage—he
affected

affected only to demand from the King of Poland, as Elector of Saxony, a free passage for his troops into Bohemia, rendered absolutely necessary by the behaviour of the court of Vienna, without appearing to be in the smallest degree acquainted with the political connections of that sovereign.

THE King of Poland, who felt himself in an awkward situation, conscious as he was of the part which he had engaged to undertake in the confederacy, and equally conscious of his own inability to support any refusal of the present demand, gave only a temporizing verbal answer, with a promise to remit a more particular one in writing as soon as possible.

IN the mean time, justly apprehensive of consequences, he augmented his forces at Pirná with all possible expedition; that he might be enabled to make a stand, in case of the worst, till his confederates should have an opportunity to relieve him.

AT this period, there seems to have been a design to make England the tool of the confederates: for the written answer from the King

of Poland was transmitted to his Prussian majesty through the medium of Lord Stormont, the British minister. In this answer, or rather declaration, the King of Poland stated—That he was greatly concerned to hear that such differences had arisen between the courts of Berlin and Vienna, as to give any occasion for the Prussian troops to march into Bohemia; that he did not, however, refuse the requisition of a passage for these troops, provided they observed strict discipline, and were not permitted to do any damage in their march through his dominions; that he expected to know at what time, through what place, and in what numbers, his troops were to pass, for the appointment of proper commissaries to direct them; that he hoped his Prussian majesty, as a friend and good neighbour, would consider the scarcity occasioned by a bad harvest, and cause ready money, and the market-price, to be paid for every thing wanted; that he trusted the stay of the troops would be as short as possible: and concluded with asserting, that he had the strongest reasons to keep steadfastly to the treaty of Dresden, in conformity to which he had assiduously cultivated the friendship of the neighbouring powers; that on this principle

ciple he flattered himself the King of Prussia would rest satisfied of his intention *not to take any part in the unhappy disputes that had arisen between his Prussian majesty and the Empress-queen*; and that these strong assurances, *which he had already several times given the Prussian minister, and now solemnly confirmed*, ought to satisfy his Prussian majesty, and prevent his requiring any thing of the King of Poland, or his subjects, contrary to the liberty of a prince of the empire, *or that might oblige him to have recourse to the great Germanic body, and the guarantees of the treaties of peace*, for the due execution of those treaties.

THE King of Prussia, already in possession of the inimical agreement of the court of Dresden, with the Empress-queen and the Czarina, was not to be duped by this fallacious declaration. He received very politely the Polish noblemen who attended the delivery; heard their proposals; and immediately replied, that he desired nothing more than the neutrality so handsomely proposed by the King of Poland—to render that neutrality, however, less liable to misconstruction, it would be proper for the troops assembled at Pirna to be sent back into

quarters; and, after this proof of sincerity, he should take pleasure in shewing, by equality of condescension, an equal disposition to give real marks of friendship for his Polish majesty, with whom he would then concert measures adapted to the exigencies of affairs.

WHILE this business was negotiating, which turned out exactly as the King of Prussia expected, he had taken such preliminary steps as might best enable him to execute, without delay, his original plan of operations; and this, as already hinted, comprehended the seizure of Saxony.

THUS was this unhappy country once more devoted to destruction; as much, perhaps, from the peculiarity of it's situation, as even the insidious policy of it's imprudent sovereign.

THE King of Prussia entered Saxony at the head of an army sufficiently powerful to drive his Polish majesty from his capital; of which, at all events, he was determined to get possession: not doubting that he should, by that means, among other advantages, be enabled to obtain the original of the confederacy against him.

ON

ON the first alarm of an actual invasion, the King of Poland, with his two sons, Xaverius and Charles, leaving the queen and the remainder of the royal family, had retired from Dresden, as a place not sufficiently tenable, to a camp deemed impregnable, in the vicinity of Pirna: this situation, indeed, was the only one in his electorate, where an effectual stand could be made against a formidable enemy, and a communication at the same time preserved with his ally the Queen of Hungary.

THE King of Prussia's operations had been calculated to prepare for this expected event, without losing sight of his primary intention to possess himself of Dresden. All his arrangements, in the mean time, seemed directed towards Pirna; and even his chief commanders, who were on this occasion only entrusted with temporary instructions, knew nothing of his design on that capital.

A CONSIDERABLE army was formed in Upper, and another in Lower Silesia, to occupy the passes communicating with the circles of Bunczlaw and Konigin-Gratz, and a large body of troops was likewise assembled at Glatz.

Glatz. These dispositions, so well calculated to cover Silesia from any attempts of the Austrians, and enable the King of Prussia to advance into Bohemia uninterrupted, were most judiciously planned to keep the attention of the enemy on a remote and fallacious object, while the main army was actually employed in surprizing Dresden, and reducing every untenable place to the Prussian dominion.

WITH so much caution had the King of Prussia proceeded in this business, that even Prince Ferdinand of Brunswick, who commanded in chief the forces on the frontiers of Bohemia, had advanced as far as Gros-Kugel, before he received instructions to turn off for Leipzig, and take possession of that city: nor, till he had actually possessed himself of Leipzig, did orders arrive for the continuation of his march along the Elbe, that he might get behind Pirna, cut off the avenues through which the Saxon army was supplied with provisions, and prevent either a junction or any relief from the Austrians.

A MANIFESTO had been published by the King of Prussia, on his first entering Saxony,
pleading

pleading the necessity to which he was driven, of thus invading the hereditary domains of the King of Poland with an armed force, by the equivocal conduct and dangerous views of the court of Vienna; and protesting, in the most solemn manner, that nothing should have induced him to take such disagreeable measures, had he not been obliged to pursue them by the laws of war, under the danger of the present combinations, and the absolute necessity of providing for the defence of his own dominions; that he still entertained no hostile intentions against his Polish majesty; that his troops by no means entered as enemies; and that he ardently wished for the happy moment when he might be enabled to restore the publick tranquillity, and the King of Poland's hereditary dominions, which he was now compelled to seize as a necessary pledge for his own safety.

PRINCE Ferdinand, in the name of his Prussian majesty, made a similar apology for his hostile visit to Leipzig: but the subsequent conduct of the king, as well as of the prince, gave the unfortunate Saxons a dreadful proof how little reliance is to be placed on the pacifick protestations of the most illustrious characters,

characters, when once they have resorted to arms.

THE King of Prussia entered Dresden without opposition, and an officer waited on the Queen of Poland with the strongest assurances of security and respect for her person and family: but soon afterwards the same gentleman returned, with a peremptory demand of the keys of all the royal archives, cabinets, and treasures; and the queen, in spite of every remonstrance to divert his Prussian majesty from such unprecedented violence in her own palace, was at length forced to submit.

THE ministers of state, and members of the Saxon council, were informed that the King of Prussia had no occasion for their services, but would select proper persons to discharge their respective situations: and Baron Wyllach, now appointed the Prussian governor of Dresden, made prisoners of all the Saxon officers in that city, whom he obliged to swear that they would not serve against the king his master before they could be released; and transported to Magdeburg, down the river Elbe, all the artillery, arms, and other military stores, which
had

had been privately laid up in the arsenal and magazines of the capital.

THE operations of the Prince of Brunswick were exactly of the same complexion. The first proof of his friendship for the Saxons, after seizing on Leipzig, was manifested by an immediate proclamation for the inhabitants to supply his army with provisions, at a low rate, on pain of military execution: and this was followed, at the close of the same day, by an order for the payment of all taxes and customs to the King of Prussia, an actual seizure of the custom-house and excise-office, and an obligation on the merchants to open their stores for the use of his army.

THE citadel of Wirtemberg was blown up, and Torgau strongly fortified; the latter being made the seat of the Prussian government, where the treasure of the army was kept, and contributions and duties of all kinds were directed to be paid: and all the artillery, arms, and other military stores, found in the arsenals of Leipzig, Weisenfels, and Zest, were transported, like those of Dresden, to Magdeburg.

THE

THE King of Prussia, with an eye to the Saxon army, which was stationed just as he had expected, fixed his head-quarters at Seidlitz, within a few miles of Pirna; that he might be ready to intercept all convoys of provisions intended for the camp, and favour the operations committed to Prince Ferdinand of Brunswick, who had formed a chain with the royal army that extended on the right towards the frontiers of Bohemia, where he had seized the passes leading to the circles of Satzer and Leutmeritz, and taken post without resistance.

IN this dilemma, his Polish majesty addressed all the courts of Europe for assistance; stating in a memorial, with many aggravations, the conduct of the King of Prussia, which really had little need of aggravation.

SUCH violent transactions spread a general alarm: his Prussian majesty was every where stigmatized as an unprincipled robber; and the indignation of good men, of all countries, was loudly against him. Even the King of England, his faithful ally, unable to penetrate the motives of such extraordinary proceedings, scrupled not to express publicly
the

the most decided disapprobation of so glaring an outrage.

THE King of Prussia now presented a counter memorial: in which he declared—that these imputations were calumnies raised and aggravated without truth or decency; that nothing more than usual taxes had been levied on the Saxons; that they had been fully paid for every thing they had furnished; and that the respect due to the queen had not been violated by the demand of certain papers in the archives of state, copies of which he had previously possessed, and only wanted the originals, that he might prove unanswerably the plot long ago formed to strip him, not only of Silesia, which the Empress-queen reserved wholly for herself, but likewise of the dutchies of Magdeburg and Crossen, and the circles of Zullichau, Cotbus, and Schwifus, which was the portion intended for the King of Poland.

THESE unanswerable proofs, the King of Prussia fortunately obtained on this occasion, and shortly afterwards published them at large; a measure which fully established him in the opinion of the impartial, who now admired the wisdom and policy of those measures which
they

they had before most rigidly condemned. The proceedings had been violent; but violence, they perceived, had been necessary.

THIS was the language of impartiality; but impartiality was not to be expected from the confederated powers, who had long meditated the destruction of his Prussian majesty.

FRANCE published a circular rescript to all foreign courts, stating that the King of Prussia, by his usurpation of Saxony, had committed a most flagrant breach of the publick peace, the treaty of Westphalia, all the laws and constitutions of the empire, *and every tie by which the members of the Germanic body were united; that, in concert with the King of Great Britain,* he had violated all laws, both human and divine, so that no measures should be kept with those powers, either by land or sea; that his Prussian majesty was excluded all benefit from any defensive alliance, and that such allies ought to join their arms with those of France and her allies, in their united exertions to support the general interest of Europe, and give a proper sanction to the mutual bond by which one nation is attached to another.

RUSSIA,

RUSSIA, before that power could possibly have heard what was transacting in Saxony, had taken up the cause of the Empress-queen, in a declaration, dated September 4, 1756; charging the King of Prussia with disgust at the treaty of Versailles, and reproaching him with that of London, to which the Czarina ascribed those hostile preparations, on his part; that had, as she contended, given rise to the war-like arrangements of the court of Vienna. The declaration then proceeded to state, that the King of Prussia, without any thing to apprehend from enemies *which only existed in his own imagination*, had demanded, from the court of Vienna, an unnecessary explanation; adding, in a manner highly indecent, that if her answer were not to his satisfaction, he protested before God he would not be answerable for the consequences: and that, in consideration of all these circumstances, the Czarina could *no longer conceal her real sentiments*; nor forbear declaring, that as she cannot behold with indifference any attack on the dominions of her allies, *particularly those of the Empress-queen of Hungary, and the King of Poland*, she will furnish speedy and powerful succours to the party unjustly attacked, and will not think herself at

all responsible for the consequences which the menacing conduct of the King of Prussia may draw after it.

THE Emperor, engaged by his consort to use every effort in his power for the prevention of the King of Prussia's progress, issued a decree, as head of the empire, admonishing and commanding him to withdraw his troops from Saxony, on pain of being proceeded against *according to the laws of the Germanick constitution*. He then absolved all the vassals of the empire in his Prussian majesty's service from their oath of fidelity, commanding them to quit the Prussian standard; and, by a third decree, dated at Vienna, September 19, 1756, forbade all the princes, states, and other members of the empire, to give him any kind of assistance, or permit their subjects to enlist in his service. Concluding, after an aggravated enumeration of all the violences stated in the Saxon memorial, with the following remarkable clause—‘ For these causes, we most seriously enjoin and command your majesty, as
‘ Elector of Brandenburg, by virtue of our
‘ Imperial dignity, and the power of supreme
‘ judge, to desist, without delay, from all re-
‘ bellion,

‘ bellion, hostile invasions, violences, and
 ‘ breaches of the peace, in the Electorate of
 ‘ Saxony, and other states of the empire; to
 ‘ withdraw immediately your troops, and to
 ‘ break up and dismiss your army, which is so
 ‘ dangerous to the states of the empire and the
 ‘ common tranquillity; to restore every thing
 ‘ that has been taken; to repair, without reply
 ‘ or demur, all damages and costs; and to make,
 ‘ as soon as possible, your most humble report
 ‘ of the manner in which all this has been exe-
 ‘ cuted: as for the rest, we shall forthwith pro-
 ‘ ceed to what is enacted by the laws of the
 ‘ empire, in punishment of the grievous crime
 ‘ committed by your majesty, as Elector of
 ‘ Brandenburg, against us and the whole Im-
 ‘ perial constitution, by a rebellious enter-
 ‘ prize, dangerous to the community; and
 ‘ make provision, at the same time, for the fu-
 ‘ ture security of all the empire.’

THE imperial thunder, it is extremely ob-
 vious, from the tenor of the several proceedings
 of the confederacy, had been long collecting,
 that it might burst in full force on the head of
 his Prussian majesty: in the Saxon memorial
 it was threatened; and France, with the usual

attention to self, laboured to direct it towards England.

THE King of Prussia was not to be intimidated by the formidable alliances against him, nor could he be prevailed on to desist from his designs on Saxony by the imperial denunciations of vengeance. He knew well the importance of securing that country, and he resolved not to lose an opportunity which might never return. These proceedings, therefore, served only to accelerate the total ruin of his Polish majesty's electoral dominions.

THE arrangements already made had produced great scarcity in the camp at Pirna, the only part of the electorate that remained unsubdued; and the King of Prussia now resolved to form a strong blockade, which might oblige the army to surrender from want of provisions, or enable him to put the unhappy Saxons to the sword, should they attempt to force their way through the lines of circumvallation.

THE Empress-queen, in this ruinous situation of her ally, ordered an army of 60,000
Austrians,

Austrians, under Count Brown, instantly to join the Saxons, and attack the Prussian forces.

A DESIGN of this nature was not to be easily conducted, without the previous knowledge of a commander so well skilled as the King of Prussia in the various arts of obtaining information respecting the views of an enemy, and so intimately acquainted with the situation of the surrounding country. He knew the importance of each pass, and the danger of every defile; and this knowledge, added to the early intelligence he had obtained, as to the strength and destination of the Austrians, determined him to frustrate their intention, by suddenly forcing them into an engagement.

HAVING reduced Count Thun's town and palace of Tetchen, situated on a rock, and considered as a frontier fortress against Saxony, Marshal Keith had orders to enter Bohemia, with as many troops, detached in small parties, as could conveniently be spared from the blockade; and, after securing the several passes, to encamp near Aufsig, in the vicinity of the Austrian army.

It is remarkable that the two generals, who were to engage in this important action, should both have originally been subjects of Great Britain.

COUNT Brown, the Austrian commander in chief, was of Irish extraction; and had recommended himself to the Imperial court, as well by his distinguished services in Italy, as in the preceding war with his Prussian majesty.

MARSHAL Keith, who on this occasion commanded under the King of Prussia, was the younger son of the Earl Marshal of Scotland, and a native of that kingdom. He had joined his brother, the Lord Marshal, in the rebellion of 1715, at the age of seventeen years, and was slightly wounded at the battle of Sheriffmuir. Being driven out of the kingdom, by the ill success of his party, he had been in the Spanish service some time, and much longer in that of Russia; till at length he received an invitation from his Prussian majesty, who had given him a considerable pension in addition to his pay, and constantly treated him as an intimate companion.

THOUGH

THOUGH the King of Prussia had the highest opinion of Marshal Keith's merit, and the greatest confidence in his fidelity, he was resolved personally to engage in a battle of so much importance; and from his success in which he could alone hope to keep possession of Saxony, and penetrate at pleasure into Bohemia. He accordingly set out from his camp at Sedlitz, on the 28th of September; and, arriving at Ausig, immediately put his troops in motion, determined to seek the Austrian army.

A VANGUARD of eight battalions of infantry was formed, on the morning of the 29th, with ten squadrons of dragoons, and eight squadrons of hussars; at the head of which his Prussian majesty proceeded to Tournitz, ordering the remainder of the army to follow after him in two separate columns. From Tournitz, the king went forward with his vanguard to Welmina, where he arrived about an hour before sun-set, and could perceive the Austrian army with it's right wing at Lowositz, and it's left stretching towards Egra.

HAVING thus discovered the precise situation of the enemy, his Prussian majesty instantly

proceeded to possess himself of a hollow, and some rising grounds which commanded Lowofitz; and which the Austrians, not expecting such a visit, had indiscreetly left open.

As the remainder of the army arrived during the night, they were ordered to form into battalions and squadrons behind one another, and thus to continue under arms. The king himself sat the rest of the night in his cloak, before a small fire at the head of his troops; and, at day-break, the first of October, proceeded to point out to his general officers the plan of his proposed operations. The infantry, which formed the first line, were ordered to occupy two hills, with the intervening valley; the second line was likewise formed with some battalions of foot, and the third line consisted of the whole body of cavalry.

THE Austrians, who began to perceive their error, in having neglected to occupy the heights, prepared vigorously to dispute the possession with their unwelcome intruders: so that, though no time was lost by his Prussian majesty in strengthening the wings of his army on those hills, and the infantry used the same
diligence

diligence and precaution in establishing their posts to the right, the enemy's Pandours and Croatians greatly annoyed the left from behind the stone inclosures of the vineyards. The Prussians, however, with the most undaunted resolution, and as much order as possible, advanced to the declivity of the hills, towards the enemy; from which station they could perceive, though a thick fog greatly intercepted their view, the town of Lowositz filled with infantry; with a large battery of twelve cannon in front, and the Austrian cavalry formed chequer-wise, in a line between Lowositz and the village of Sauschitz.

THE King of Prussia having reconnoitred the enemy, and finding that he had judged rightly of their disposition, and that the infantry had possessed themselves of the hollow, agreeably to his directions, resolved to begin the attack, by driving back the Austrian cavalry in front. To effect this purpose, he formed his own cavalry before his first line of infantry, and immediately attacked the enemy with such vigour, that they soon gave way; but Count Brown having judiciously stationed a large body of infantry in ditches and hollow places, with
sixty

sixty pieces of cannon, behind the horse, the Prussians found themselves the more exposed to their fire the farther they pursued their advantage, and were obliged to retreat back under the protection of their artillery; the enemy, however, not daring to follow them. The Prussian horse being again formed, they returned to the charge with such dauntless resolution, that in spite of every impediment they totally routed the whole Austrian cavalry, and forced the infantry, in disorder, from their stations. This service performed, the King of Prussia ordered his cavalry to return up the hill, where he stationed them behind the infantry; but, as the cannonading still continued, and the enemy made every possible effort to flank the left of his infantry, he directed the battalions of the first line to turn to the left, that the battalions of the second might fill up the intervals, and the cavalry be thus brought to form the second line in support of the infantry: at the same instant, by a master-stroke of generalship, the entire left of the infantry having gradually marched on, were ordered suddenly to wheel about, and attack the town of Lowositz in flank; a service which was so effectually

fectually executed, that in spite of the artillery, and the prodigious infantry of the enemy, the Prussians set fire to the suburbs, carried the post, and put the whole army to flight.

COUNT Brown finding the Austrians greatly dispirited by such a scene of blood, retired with the remainder of his army to the other side of the Egra, and encamped at Budin.

THE battle continued from seven in the morning till three in the afternoon, and the loss of the Prussians is supposed to have been about 2000 killed and wounded; among the former, were one general of infantry, two major-generals of cavalry, and one colonel of the Gens d'Armes. The Austrians had upwards of 6000 killed and wounded, and about 500 taken prisoners: General Radicati was killed, and Prince Lobkowitz taken prisoner.

COUNT Brown, according to the best accounts, took more than twice as many troops as the King of Prussia into the field; the army of the former consisting of 60,000 men, and that of the latter 25,000 only.

BUT

BUT though the King of Prussia kept the field, and established his head-quarters at Lowofitz, the court of Vienna, unwilling to acknowledge the loss of so important a battle, at the commencement of the war, and with so great a superiority of numbers, fabricated a very different account of the action, which concluded with claiming the victory. It was, however, manifest to all the world, that Count Brown had advanced purposely to relieve the Saxons; and that, after the battle, he was in no condition to perform this service: while, on the other hand, the King of Prussia had met the Austrian army in Bohemia, merely to prevent this relief; and that he did prevent it most effectually.

THE King of Prussia now vigorously pursued the blockade of the Saxon army; till at length, their provisions being exhausted, and all resources cut off, they found themselves reduced to the necessity of attempting an escape to prevent becoming prisoners of war.

COUNT Brown, though unable to afford them relief, personally undertook to favour their intended flight, by marching with a considerable
body

body of horse from the camp at Budin to the neighbourhood of Konigstein.

ON the 11th instant, he apprized the King of Poland of his arrival, and desired that the troops might be permitted to march out the next night. Accordingly, the Saxons, on the succeeding evening, secretly threw a bridge of boats across the Elbe, near Konigstein, and by seven in the morning the whole army had passed the Elbe undiscovered.

BUT the Austrian commander, though a brave general, had not been sufficiently circumspect in reconnoitring the country through which the fugitives were to be led; and he had to encounter a warrior, who added to consummate valour a prodigious share of caution and sagacity.

HIS Prussian majesty, far from relying solely on the strength or vigilance of his blockade, had ordered Marshal Keith to secure all the passes, and line every defile; so that when the Saxon vanguard had with infinite labour ascended about half way up a steep mountain, and the rest of the army were shut up in a nar-

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row plain opposite Konigstein, they had the inexpressible mortification to discover, that it would be impossible for them ever to force their way through the posts they now perceived occupied by the Prussians, who surrounded them on all sides. Destitute of provisions, and of artillery, they had every thing to dread; and were convinced that they had only been suffered to march into the toil, that they might be taken with less difficulty.

THE King of Poland, who remained behind, in his castle of Konigstein, to wait the issue of this retreat, being acquainted with the deplorable situation of his troops, wrote the following letter to Count Rutowski, his commander in chief.

‘ It is with extreme sorrow I learn the de-
‘ plorable situation, which a chain of misfor-
‘ tunes has reserved for you, my other ge-
‘ nerals, and my whole army; but we must ac-
‘ quiesce in the dispensations of Providence, and
‘ console ourselves with the conscious rectitude
‘ of our sentiments and intentions. They
‘ would force me, it seems, as you give me to
‘ understand by the Baron de Dyherrn, to
‘ submit

‘ submit to conditions the more severe, in proportion as the circumstances are become more necessitous. I cannot hear them mentioned. I am a free monarch : such I will live ; such I will die ; and I will both live and die with honour. The fate of my army I leave wholly to your discretion. Let your council of war determine whether you must surrender, fall by the sword, or perish by famine. May your resolutions, if possible, be conducted with humanity. Whatever they may be, I have no longer any share in them : and I declare there is only one thing for which you shall not be answerable ; namely, consenting to carry arms against me or my allies. I pray God may have you in his holy keeping. Given at Konigstein, October 14, 1756.

‘ AUGUSTUS REX.’

COUNT Rutowski being thus furnished with discretionary powers ; and receiving intelligence that General Brown, far from able to afford him any relief, had himself been obliged to retire towards Bohemia, pursued and harassed by a detachment of Prussian cavalry, came to an immediate capitulation ; and, on the

the 16th, the whole Saxon army surrendered, and were made prisoners of war.

EVEN the ill that his Polish majesty had most dreaded was not to be avoided: for the Saxons, who had severely felt the bad policy of their sovereign's imprudent alliance, enlisted with more readiness than could have been expected into the service of the King of Prussia, to whom they all cheerfully took the oath of allegiance.

THE situation of his Polish majesty was now the most abject imaginable. From this moment he may be said to have abdicated his Saxon dominions. The king and queen were, it is true, permitted to retain the externals of royalty, but their power in the electorate was no more; and they soon suffered themselves to be escorted, by a Prussian guard, into Poland, leaving the King of Prussia in full and undisputed possession of all Saxony.

CONSCIOUS of the storm gathering around him, his Prussian majesty resolved to fortify Dresden with the utmost expedition, and to fill the magazines and arsenals with the necessary
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stores and implements of war: the inhabitants of the whole electorate were disarmed, or taken into the Prussian service; and such dispositions were made on the borders of Bohemia, as effectually covered Saxony from any insult or surprize.

AMIDST these martial arrangements, the King of Prussia forgot not to publish at large all the original documents found in the royal archives at Dresden; and thus to manifest the necessity there had been for the adoption of those measures which had raised the general outcry against him. From these, the artifices successfully practised by the courts of Vienna, and of Dresden, to embitter the Czarina against his Prussian majesty, and thus the sooner force him into a war, the success of which was considered as certain; and the remarkable eagerness of his Polish majesty to secure a large share in the meditated division of the Prussian dominions, were abundantly proved. Attempts to controvert them were made, particularly by the court of Vienna; but the facts had been completely established, and the world was no longer to be deceived.

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BUT though truth was too powerful for the excuses of the confederates, in every unprejudiced mind; the interest of the allies, in most courts of Europe, and particularly in the Empire, was much too powerful for truth.

HIS Prussian majesty, though the successful conqueror of Saxony, was in a situation that must have totally depressed a less vigorous mind. His electorate under the ban of the Empire; the allegiance of his subjects absolved by the Imperial decree; an angry declaration from Russia; the armies of France already in conjunction with those of Austria; and the King of Sweden, assisted by the Duke of Mecklenburg, and desirous to recover what he had lost in Pomerania, ready to favour this prodigious host of enemies. With a magnanimity, however, which seemed to set dangers at defiance, he cheerfully took up his winter-quarters in Saxony: lining the shore of the Elbe, between Pirna and the frontier, by that part of the army which was under the command of Marshal Keith; and covering Silesia from surprize by that of Marshal Schwerin, who was stationed in the county of Glatz.

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DURING this recess, a regiment of the Saxon troops who had entered into the Prussian service on their surrender at Pirna, and were sent to garrison Berlin, took the opportunity to desert, and retire into Poland, with many others who joined them in their march. But this was not permitted to weaken the army: for his Prussian majesty compelled the Saxon magistrates to raise him four thousand new recruits; and, in the mean time, to prevent similar desertions, he broke all the Saxon regiments, and incorporated the men among his own troops.

THE inhabitants of Dresden being disarmed, one regiment only was allotted for that garrison; a detachment was posted at Königstein, where a shadow of the Saxon court yet remained, to insure the observance of that strict neutrality which had been agreed to on the surrender of the army; the French minister, and other suspicious persons, were ordered to withdraw; and two bridges were thrown over the Elbe to provide for the necessity of a retreat.

SAXONY being thus secured, the King of Prussia personally visited all his ports in Silesia;

settled, at Neisse, with Marshal Schwerin, commander of all the forces in Silesia, the operations for the ensuing campaign, so as to make his 50,000 men act in concert with the royal army; stationed armies in Lusatia and Voigtland; ordered 20,000 men to Zwickaw, on the frontiers of Bohemia; and detached 60,000 towards Great Zeidlitz, where the head-quarters were established.

IN the mean time, having learned that a prodigious army of Russians, under Count Apraxin, were on their march to invade Ducal Prussia; and that they had provided no more necessaries than would suffice till their arrival in Lithuania, where they depended on a sufficient supply; his Prussian majesty not only powerfully reinforced Memel, and ordered 30,000 men under General Lehwald to meet the Russian army, but had the excellent precaution to buy up all the corn and forage of the whole country where the Russians were to enter, who consequently found themselves incapable of advancing, and were obliged to abandon their enterprize.

WHILE the necessary dispositions were making on the frontiers of Bohemia, several slight skirmishes

skirmishes happened with the Austrians, who had reinforced their armies, and watched every opportunity of advantage, previous to what may be considered as a regular opening of the second campaign.

IN the beginning of March, the Prince of Bevern, resolved to destroy the dens and petty forts of the Austrians on the frontiers of Bohemia, which had favoured these assaults, left Zittau with about 1000 men; and, seizing on the enemy's magazine at Friedland, carried off 9000 sacks of meal, and a vast quantity of ammunition. From Friedland, he proceeded to Reichenburg, which also surrendered to his arms. In this expedition, the Prince of Bevern lost not a single man; and had two only slightly wounded: though the van of his troops, consisting only of 150 hussars, had attacked, sword in hand, a body of 600 Croats, sustained by 300 Austrian dragoons, on their first entering Bohemia; and actually killed 50 of the enemy, made 10 dragoons prisoners, and carried off 30 horses.

THIS, though a trifling expedition, had a brilliancy of success which must apologize for
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for it's being noticed where transactions of more importance begin to claim attention.

AND now the campaign of 1757 opened with an additional proof of his Prussian majesty's extraordinary skill and sagacity.

THE four armies, which seemed to have been placed merely on the defensive, in Silesia, Lusatia, Misnia, and Saxony, suddenly received orders to penetrate, at the same instant, by different routs, into Bohemia, and form a junction as expeditiously as possible. The king himself, assisted by Marshal Keith, commanded the army from Saxony; Prince Maurice of Anhalt Dessau headed that from Misnia; Prince Ferdinand of Brunswick Bevern led the troops from Lusatia; and those from Silesia were conducted by Marshal Schwerin.

COUNT Brown never once suspected such a manœuvre; and, as the business had been conducted with equal secrecy and dispatch, the four armies actually entered Bohemia with little or no opposition.

ON the 20th of April, the Prince of Bevern got possession of Krottaw and Graffenstein,

stein, the first post on that side of Bohemia, without losing a man; and, hearing that the enemy had approached to Kratzen, he proceeded thither immediately, drove them away, and continued his march to Machendorf, in the neighbourhood of 28,000 Austrians under Count Conigseg, whom he the next day attacked and totally defeated near Reichenburg, after an engagement which lasted five hours, and in which upwards of 1000 Austrians were killed and wounded, including several general officers, with the loss of only 100 Prussians killed and 150 wounded.

HIS Prussian majesty omitted not to make the best use of this victory, by personally publishing it at the head of his own army.

‘SEE, my brave fellows,’ said he, ‘a most auspicious beginning! Heaven espouses our cause. The Prince of Bevern has defeated the Austrians at Reichenburg. An evident assurance that, with God’s assistance, we shall have the like success!’

A SPEECH, simple as this, delivered by an illustrious warrior, and that warrior a king, at
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the head of his own army, has an effect on the hearers which no assemblage of written words can possibly convey to the mind. Joy was instantaneously diffused through every bosom; every countenance acknowledged the impression, and every tongue aided the loud acclamations, which resounded through the ranks, with repeated bursts of ‘Huzza!’ and ‘Long life to the King!’

THE ardour thus inspired was not suffered to cool by delay. Sensible as the King of Prussia was of the enemy’s superiority in number, and of the almost impregnable situation of their encampment, he knew that this would be a favourable moment to seek them. He therefore ordered the Prince of Bevern, who had been joined by Marshal Schwerin soon after the battle of Reichenburg, to meet him, with as much expedition as possible, at a particular station; and similar instructions were at the same time dispatched to the Prince of Anhalt Dessau.

THIS junction was most successfully effected, and the Prince of Bevern possessed himself, on his march, of the greatest part
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of the circle of Buntzlau, and took a considerable magazine from the Austrians.

WHEN every thing thus appeared ripe for action, the King of Prussia put in practice one of those stratagems to deceive and weaken the enemy, which his inexhaustible invention was ever ready to supply.

No sooner had the several armies united, than his majesty, having instructed General Schwerin where to meet him, filed off with the troops under his own particular command; and, advancing suddenly to Budin, drove the Austrians encamped in that advantageous situation as far as Westram, which lies nearly equidistant between Prague and Budin.

THE Austrians, who had kept an eye to the route by which the king himself entered Bohemia, and who had from that circumstance suspected some design distinct from the object of his main army, were compleatly deceived by this manœuvre, and detached 20,000 men from their main army to watch his particular motions.

THIS was exactly what the King of Prussia wanted; who, on passing the Egra, was joined by Marshal Schwerin, in such a situation as enabled them to act conjunctively, and made so rapid and masterly a movement to the left, as if his design were against Egra, that it effectually completed his real plan of cutting off all communication between the army of observation thus detached, and the main body of Austrians, who remained strongly entrenched on the banks of the Moldau, to the north of Prague, under the command of Prince Charles of Lorraine, and Count Brown.

THE success of this contrivance, which the Austrian generals had too late discovered, made them astonishingly wary in their future operations, and prevented their improving those advantages which actually presented themselves. Instead, therefore, of making a single effort to prevent the Prussian troops from uniting, they continued quietly in their strong encampment, with no higher view than that of being able to cover Prague from surprize or insult.

THIS extreme of caution in the enemy, served only to stimulate the King of Prussia; who

who was now resolved to attack this prodigious army, in their strong post, as the only means of promoting the full extent of his designs.

IN defiance of every difficulty, the king himself, accompanied by Marshal Keith, at the head of 30,000 men, crossed the Moldau, on the morning of the 6th of May, over a bridge of boats; leaving the army **under** the Prince of Anhalt Dessau, to secure the passage of that river in case a retreat should be necessary. These were immediately joined by the troops under Marshal Schwerin and the Prince of Bevern; and, with this united force, it was resolved instantly to attack the enemy, who were little short of 100,000 strong.

THE King of Prussia accordingly filed off on the left, by Potschernitz, as the most eligible situation for flanking the enemy; and thus compelled Count Brown to wheel about to the right. The Prussians, however, pursued their march to Bichwitz, in spite of the badness of the way; which was so full of defiles, precipices, and morasses, that the infantry and cavalry were frequently obliged to divide, and take different routes. No obstacles,

however, could check the ardour, or long impede the progress, of the brave and persevering Prussians; who rivalled each other's address and resolution in passing defiles, crossing marshes, clearing ditches, climbing precipices, and seizing rising grounds. Their extreme eagerness to engage, however, made the infantry too soon begin the attack; and the Austrians, with such manifest advantage, at first drove them back. But this momentary check served only to increase their native valour: they instantly rallied; advanced with irresistible impetuosity; and, while the king flanked the enemy to the left, attacked and entirely broke their right. A marshy ground now unexpectedly stopped the progress of Marshal Schwerin's army, without the co-operation of which it was by no means possible totally to defeat the enemy: the brave old general perceiving this dilemma, instantly dismounted from his horse; and, entering the morass, with the standard of the regiment in his hand, so encouraged his men, by crying out, at the same time—'Let all brave Prussians follow me!' that, inspired with the courage of their heroick commander, then, in the eighty-second year of his age, they all pressed forward, without the smallest abatement

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ment of their ardour till the Austrians were totally routed; though they unfortunately lost their noble veteran leader, who was killed by the first fire from the enemy. The Austrian cavalry, after standing three charges, retired in great confusion; the centre of the army being at the same time compleatly broken and put to flight. The Prussian left wing now filed off towards Micheley; where, being joined by the horse, they renewed the attack on the enemy in their hasty retreat towards Safzawa; while the right were engaged with the small remains of the Austrian left wing, and in reducing three batteries. Prince Henry of Prussia, and the Prince of Bevern, made themselves masters of two batteries; and Prince Ferdinand of Brunswick continued flanking the Austrian left wing; while the King and Marshal Keith, secured the passage of the Moldau with their left and a body of cavalry.

AFTER many signal proofs of great valour, the Austrians were at length driven from the field, and the King of Prussia obtained a most decisive victory. Some accounts state, that 250 pieces of cannon were taken on this occasion, and that 10,000 Austrians were made prisoners.

prisoners. Certain it is, that all the tents and baggage, the military chest, the entire camp, and ten standards, fell into the hands of his Prussian majesty; that many thousands were killed, wounded, and taken prisoners; and that, in particular, Count Brown himself received a wound, of which he soon afterwards died at Prague, though the humiliating circumstance of his defeat is supposed to have considerably hastened his decease.

THE victory, however, was dearly purchased: for the King of Prussia, according to his own account, had 2500 killed, including Marshal Schwerin, the Prince of Holstein Beck, General D'Amstel, two colonels, and one lieutenant-colonel; and he had also about 3000 wounded, among whom were six general officers. Indeed, the Austrians, who charged their failure in this action on the wind's blowing the powder into their eyes, insisted that the King of Prussia had at least 30,000 men killed and wounded.

ABOUT 12,000 of the Austrian cavalry fled towards Benschau, where they afterwards assembled under General Pretlach;
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and 40,000, escaping their pursuers, escorted Prince Charles of Lorraine, and Count Brown, into Prague, after being dreadfully harrassed in their retreat by a detachment under Marshal Keith, who pursued them to the very gates of the metropolis.

HAVING thus dispersed the Austrian army, the only obstacle that remained previous to the King of Prussia's intended attempt on Prague, was to guard against the Imperial army of execution, now preparing to augment the number of his enemies. A battalion of Pandours, and 400 hussars, were therefore dispatched, under Colonel Meyer, to cut off all means of subsistence for any approaching army, by destroying the several magazines of forage and provisions in the country through which they must necessarily pass.

IN the mean time, so rapidly did the King of Prussia pursue his design against Prague, that in four days he had compleatly invested the city; himself on one side of the river, and Marshal Keith on the other: thus cutting off all communication with the country, and shutting up the two Austrian generals and the remainder

mainder of their armies, who had escaped the pursuit of Marshal Keith; with Prince Charles and Xaverius of Poland, the Prince of Modena, the Duke D'Arenburg, Count Lacy, and several other persons of great distinction.

THE King of Prussia, who continued to improve the blockade, soon possessed himself of Czimcarburt, a strong redoubt on an eminence commanding the city; in spite of a powerful sally, and every other obstacle, to impede his success.

THE besieged now concerted a plan that might enable them to protract the siege, by driving out such of the inhabitants as, without contributing to the defence of the city, greatly assisted the consumption of provisions. This was to have been effected, on the evening of the 23d of May, by forcing the Prussian lines at midnight, with 12,000 men, sword in hand; and thus opening a passage through the camp of the besiegers. Providentially, at about eleven o'clock that very night, a deserter from the Austrian garrison revealed the whole design to the King of Prussia; who, in less than a quarter of an hour, had his whole army ready prepared

prepared to give the assailants a warm reception. Notwithstanding this previous intelligence, however, the Austrians, favoured by the darkness of the night, actually charged the Prussian advanced posts before they were discovered.

THEIR first attack was directed against the camp of Marshal Keith, and the left wing of the Prussian army; at once to destroy the new batteries then raising, and gain the bridges of communication thrown over the Moldau, at Branick and Podbaba, at the distance of about three quarters of a mile above and below Prague. The enemy had expected to surprize the miners at work, but they arrived near half an hour too late. This was at two o'clock; and they immediately fired a piece, which alarmed the piquet-guard of 100 Prussians sent to sustain the body that covered the works, who were unable to distinguish friends from foes, and consequently fell into great confusion. Lieutenant Jerk, however, having arrived with two platoons to reconnoitre the enemy, instantly kindled a fire; and, the disposition of the enemy being thus discovered, Captain Rodig formed the design of falling on them in flank, which was effectually performed by fir-

ing in platoons, and mutually repeating the signals of the commander. From the continual firing thus kept up, the Austrians imagined them to be a very numerous body, and fled with such precipitation, that many were drowned in the Moldau, some deserted, and the rest retreated back into the city.

WHILE this was transacting, a regiment of horse-grenadiers, supported by the Hungarian infantry, attacked a Prussian redoubt guarded by Prince Ferdinand of Brunswick's battalion; and, though thrice repulsed, their musquetry kept an incessant firing on the entire front of the Prussians, from the convent of St. Margaret to the river, by which the battalion suffered exceedingly.

AT day-break, the Prussians quitted their camp, and found the Pandours in possession of a building called the Redhouse, at the bottom of a declivity before Wellastowitz, well barricaded, and supplied with cannon; and though the battalion of Pannewitz, after two hours severe service, in the midst of a continual discharge from cannon as well as musquetry, at length drove them out, they were unable to preserve

preserve this post against the city artillery, now continually directed against it.

THIS trifling advantage, where so much had been expected, cost the Austrians, in killed, wounded, and deserters, near 1500 men: they had, however, the satisfaction of proportionably lessening the force of the besiegers, who lost considerable numbers; and even Prince Ferdinand, the king's youngest brother, had a horse killed under him, the prince himself narrowly escaping, with a slight wound in his face.

THE King of Prussia now determined to find the besieged sufficient employment, without giving them leisure to concert any more plans for offensive operations.

THE heavy artillery being arrived, and the batteries compleated, on the 29th of May 1757, at midnight, after a dreadful storm of rain and thunder, a rocket was thrown up into the air, as a signal for the batteries to open; and a daily discharge of 288 bombs, besides prodigious numbers of red-hot balls, began to pour destruction on the city. The streets and

squares were crouded with upwards of 10,000 horses, grown almost mad for want of forage; and the houses on the side of the Moldau were soon wrapt in flames.

THE bombardment was continued night and day, without the smallest intermission; and every barbarous invention was in vain employed to force a surrender or capitulation. The flames, at length, raged so violently, that they were no sooner extinguished in one part, than they broke out in another; and men, women, and children, horses, and houses, were indiscriminately reduced to ashes, by the dreadful conflagration.

THE principal magistrates, citizens, and clergy, alarmed at the devastation which every where prevailed, intreated the garrison to capitulate: but, far from receiving any attention, two senators, more importunate than the rest, were immediately executed by the military power; and, as the cries of the famished people increased, 12,000 of the most innocent, because the most useless, were driven out to ask bread of their enemies, or rather to fall under those swords which the sad necessity of war compelled

compelled them to use in forcing back the miserable multitude. Provisions were now so greatly exhausted, that the horses starved for want of forage were cut up and distributed among the garrison; and the wealthier citizens were glad to purchase this flesh at the rate of four-pence a pound. The corn of the military, however, still remained plentiful; and, while that lasted, they seemed in no great humour to capitulate.

THE affairs of the Empress-queen now wore a most deplorable aspect: the principal passes of her kingdom of Bohemia in the actual possession of his Prussian majesty; her chief commanders, with the flower of their armies, blocked up in Prague, and on the point of surrendering prisoners of war; the capital itself in a great measure destroyed, and the inhabitants perishing by famine; all relief from her Saxon and Russian allies completely cut off; her hereditary dominions left wholly exposed; even Vienna itself not free from apprehensions of a siege; and, in addition to these unpropitious circumstances, her bravest troops greatly dispirited, by the universal idea that those of Prussia, under the
command

command of their illustrious sovereign, were absolutely invincible.

AT this critical period, Leopold Count Daun, an officer of prodigious ability, but who had never yet commanded in chief, entered the theatre of the war. The military character of the count had been formed by a long course of experience, in various parts of Europe, under the renowned Kevenhuller, and other celebrated generals, and in the most famous scenes of action: but, though possessed of every requisite quality to form a great commander, and descended from a noble family, he had risen, without interest, and without noise, by those very slow and imperceptible gradations which, in every country, are alone suffered to promote the elevation of mere merit.

THIS general had been sent from Vienna to join the grand army; and the intelligence that he was on the march had probably hastened those operations which led to their defeat the very day before his arrival at Boemischbrod, a few miles from Prague. At this place, however, Count Daun met with a large body of
horse,

horse, and other fugitives from the Austrian army, whom he collected with an activity which so greatly attracted the attention of his Prussian majesty, that the king instantly detached the Prince of Bevern, with twenty battalions of infantry, and thirty squadrons of horse, to check the progress of a force which he perceived would otherwise be every hour increasing.

HAD this prudent caution of the King of Prussia effectually succeeded, the fate of Bohemia, and perhaps of Austria, might at once have been decided.

But Count Daun was by much too wary a general, to risque a stake of such importance on the event of a single battle; and that single battle to be fought by dispirited and shattered troops, sunk with disgrace, and in want of every necessary, opposed to an army flushed with victory, and abundantly supplied. The instant he found the Prussians were in motion to attack him, he retreated with all possible expedition to the Elbe; entrenching himself strongly, and with great advantage of ground, at Kolin. This situation not only gave him the opportunity

opportunity of daily augmenting his strength, by recruits from Moravia, and heavy artillery from the fortrefs of Olmutz ; but inspired the besieged garrison with the most lively hopes that he would soon be enabled to afford them substantial relief.

THE King of Prussia, who was of too enterprizing and impetuous a disposition to bear patiently both the length of the siege and the temporizing conduct of Count Daun, saw plainly the fatality of suffering the encampment at Kolin to increase: and, therefore, though the count was now at the head of 60,000 men, well disciplined, deeply entrenched, and defended by a prodigious train of artillery on redoubts and batteries in the most advantageous posts, with strong lines and heavy pieces of cannon at every accessible part of the camp, and the whole rendered almost inaccessible by difficult defiles at the foot of the hill, the martial spirit of his Prussian majesty was no longer to be kept inactive by the united voices of Prudence, and of Reason, and he determined on undertaking one of the most desperate attempts ever yet recorded in the annals of war.

MARSHAL

MARSHAL Keith remonstrated strongly against the measure; but the king's courage fairly vanquished his judgment, and he marched against Kolin under the impression of a kind of military enthusiasm which seemed certain of success.

HIS Prussian majesty and Prince Maurice of Anhalt Dessau having joined the Prince of Bevern, their united forces consisted of thirty-two battalions of infantry and one hundred and eleven squadrons of dragoons and hussars, or about 32,000 men only. With this comparatively small army, however, they delayed not to seek the enemy; whom they found most advantageously posted, and covered by very formidable artillery, on the heights between Genlitz and St. John the Baptist, having been greatly reinforced during the king's march from the camp before Prague.

AT about three o'clock in the afternoon of the 18th of June, the first onset began.

THE Austrians, relying rather on their advantageous situation than on their superiority in numbers, or any apparent idea of extraordinary

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valour, waited the approach of the Prussian troops; who, bidding equal defiance to difficulties and death, marched firmly and intrepidly up the hills, amidst the dreadful discharge of grape and chain-shot, which poured like hailstones on their ranks, and produced a most horrible slaughter. But nothing could dismay the brave Prussians, who were not only obliged to pass through a fire more continual and tremendous than can possibly be imagined, but absolutely to fight their way over heaps of their fellow-soldiers incessantly mowed down by the enemy's artillery.

THE carnage of the advancing army was, indeed, inexpressibly shocking, and must have forced back any troops not resolutely determined to conquer or to die. Under this impression, however, and seeming rather to invite than to avoid danger, they rushed on their opposers; and fairly drove them from two eminences fortified with heavy cannon, and from two villages defended by large bodies of infantry.

VICTORY now seemed to incline towards the arms of Prussia, which had never better
merited

merited that reward of valour; but the obstinate perseverance of the enemy against the attack of the third eminence, and the advantages of the Austrian cavalry, as well in numbers as in situation, while the Prussians were dreadfully flanked with grape and chain-shot, at length put into momentary disorder the sad remains of one of the most heroick little armies that ever entered a field of battle. In an instant, however, they recollected themselves; and preferring a glorious death in the presence of their king, to an inglorious retreat, which must blast the laurels they had so recently taken into the field from Reichenburg and the vicinity of Prague, they rallied with astonishing expedition, and again charged the enemy with redoubled ardour. Seven times successively did they advance, led on by the valiant Prince Ferdinand, and as often were their noble efforts rendered ineffectual; as well by the disadvantage of possessing ground where their cavalry were unable to act, as the impregnable entrenchments of the enemy, and the powerful artillery by which they were covered. In short, the Prussians did every thing that could be done; and, finding success impracticable, after so many fruitless endeavours, they at length,

though with extreme reluctance, consented to give up the enterprize.

THE King of Prussia, enraged at any failure of those arms which the whole world had been so long accustomed to consider as invincible, and conscious that his own want of caution was more chargeable with this miscarriage than any deficiency in the accustomed courage and ardour of his brave troops, resolved to retrieve his own honour, and firmly to establish theirs, by a most furious and tremendous effort. He accordingly advanced personally at the head of his cavalry, and attacked the left wing of the enemy with dreadful slaughter; purposely exposing himself in the most perilous situations, that he might inspire his soldiers to act, if possible, superior to themselves. What men could do, they cheerfully did; but more than human powers were necessary for the occasion. Neither valour, nor conduct, nor even desperation itself, was capable of remedying what too much rashness and precipitation had occasioned; and all the King of Prussia could do—which was, indeed, in all probability, more than any other person but the King of Prussia could have done—was to secure a completely

pleatly safe retreat for the remains of one of the very bravest armies that ever faced an enemy. He drew off his forces from the field of blood, for it might more properly be denominated a carnage than a battle, with all his baggage and artillery, in the most perfect order, though within sight of the enemy; who, far from making the smallest effort to pursue, seemed extremely happy at the prospect of being relieved from so troublesome an assailant.

THE King of Prussia's brothers were both in the field, and they did all that could be expected from the King of Prussia's brothers.

THE loss of men, on each side, was prodigious: the Prussians had near 9000 killed and wounded, and the Austrians upwards of 10,000. Many of the Prussians were made prisoners or deserted; among the former, generals Treskow and Pannewith.

HIS Prussian majesty ascribed the loss of this battle entirely to himself, nor would he permit the smallest degree of censure to rest on any other person whatever. To say nothing
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of the danger of the enterprize—which had apparently weighed as nothing with the King of Prussia—he was convinced that he had made a false motion at the commencement of the action, and no commander knew better how fatally decisive a single false motion frequently proves in military affairs. The infantry had, at the onset, been incautiously exposed, uncovered by the cavalry, to the chain and grape-shot of the whole Austrian artillery; and this error was not afterwards retrievable on ground where it was impossible for the horses to follow. So that, notwithstanding the enemy had actually retreated, at the beginning of the engagement, before his Prussian majesty's intrepid troops; the infantry being wholly unprotected by horse and artillery, were unable to sustain the tremendous fire of the Austrians, which made the most shocking devastation among their ranks that was perhaps ever experienced. The ardour of the Prussians being thus checked, they retreated, not so much from the enemy, who never once dared to follow them, as from those terrible engines of destruction, the murdering powers of which they had neither means to resist nor numbers to supply.

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THE King of Prussia supported himself with a noble dignity under this reverse of fortune; and, in a letter to Earl Marshal, giving a particular account of this action, he scrupled not to do full justice to the enemy's valour.

'THE Imperial grenadiers,' says his Prussian majesty, 'are an admirable corps; one hundred companies defended a rising ground which my best infantry were unable to carry. Ferdinand, who commanded them, returned seven times to the charge; but it was to no purpose. He at first mastered a battery, but could not possibly preserve it. The enemy had the advantage of a numerous and well supplied artillery: it did honour to Lichtenstein, who had the direction.'

AFTER extolling the courage of his own men, the King of Prussia thus proceeds.

'ONLY the Prussian army could have disputed it. But my infantry were too few; and all my cavalry, though present, remained idle spectators, excepting a bold push by my household troops and some of the dragoons.

'FERDINAND

‘FERDINAND attacked without powder;
‘the enemy, in the mean time, were not sparing
‘of theirs. They had the advantage of
‘a rising ground, of entrenchments, and of a
‘prodigious artillery. Several of my regiments
‘were repulsed by their musquetry.’

THE King of Prussia then notices the conduct of his two valiant brothers.

‘HENRY performed wonders! I tremble
‘for my worthy brothers; they are too brave.’

HIS majesty, in concluding, takes the entire blame on himself, with much good-humour: and, as a morose critick might add, but surely it must be a morose one, with more than sufficient pleasantry for the occasion.

‘FORTUNE this day turned her back on me.
‘I ought to have expected it: she is a female,
‘and I am no gallant! Seriously, I ought to
‘have had more infantry. Success, my dear
‘lord, often occasions a fatal confidence.
‘Twenty-four battalions were not sufficient
‘to dislodge 60,000 men from an advantageous post. Another time we hope to do
‘better!

‘better! I have no reason to complain of the
‘bravery of my troops, or the skill of my
‘officers. The fault was mine alone, and I
‘hope to repair it.’

THESE were the generous declarations of his Prussian majesty; whose reputation, far from being diminished by this slight blemish on his military conduct, absolutely rose higher in the estimation of all judicious men, as well from the candid and noble manner in which he acknowledged his error, as the firmness with which he bore his misfortune, and the astonishing ability with which he immediately proceeded to retrieve his loss.

THE first step taken by the King of Prussia, after having secured the retreat of his shattered army from the eminences and defiles of the enemy, was to guard against such ill consequences as might naturally be expected to arise, should the news of his defeat reach Prague before proper measures were taken to secure the troops and armaments employed in the reduction of that city.

HE accordingly left his army at Nimburg, under the command of the Prince of Bevern; and, regardless of the fatigue he must necessarily have felt from a day of such severe service, set out personally with fresh horses, and an escort of only a dozen hussars, for the camp before Prague, where he arrived in the morning without having once halted.

DOUBLE sentinels were immediately stationed at all the avenues and advanced posts, to prevent the arrival of any intelligence from Count Daun; and the orders for sending off, in the mean time, all the artillery, ammunition, and baggage, were executed with so much dispatch, that the tents were all struck, and the whole army actually on their march, before the garrison were in the smallest degree apprized of the cause which had thus effected their deliverance.

PRINCE Charles of Lorrain, who, after the decease of Count Brown, held the chief command in Prague, sallied out with a large body of Austrians to harass the rear of the Prussian army; but was unable to cut off more than about 200 men from Marshal Keith's division.

The

The corps commanded by the Prince of Prussia, having marched all night by another route, to join the Prince of Bevern at Nimburg, was very little exposed to the enemy.

MARSHAL Keith proceeded towards Saxony, where he was left by his Prussian Majesty to guard the passes into that country with an army of 25,000 men; while the king himself, and his brother Prince Henry, with another part of the army, marched into the electorate, and encamped in the neighbourhood of Pirna.

SEVERAL flight skirmishes, and some disadvantageous actions, succeeded the King of Prussia's loss at Kolin. The important pass of Gabel, though well garrisoned under Major-general Putkammer, was surprized and taken by a strong detachment under the command of the Duke D'Aremberg, in the same month; and Prince Henry, who had been employed to watch the motions of the enemy, with the division under his command, must have fallen a victim to their superior force, if the king had not timely hastened to the relief of his brother, by forced marches, and

thus coming suddenly on the Austrians, happily obliged them to retire.

ON the 23d of July, however, the Austrians having approached Zittau, a town of considerable trade in Upper Saxony, garrisoned by six battalions, and containing several large magazines, they determined to carry the place before the King of Prussia could possibly hasten to it's relief. With this design, wholly regardless of the Saxon inhabitants, and not appearing to reflect that the town in reality belonged to their friend and ally the King of Poland, they began a most furious cannonade and bombardment, which lasted from eleven in the morning till five in the afternoon. Colonel Diricke had orders to maintain this post as long as possible, and he refused to surrender till the place was wholly destroyed; but all the garrison, except about 300 men, effected their escape, with as much of the stores as they could possibly carry off. Upwards of six hundred houses, the two cathedrals, the town-house, the prison, and other public edifices, were set on fire or beat down by the besiegers; who discharged, in these few hours, at least

4000 cannon balls, many of which being red-hot, produced a most dreadful conflagration. The public records, pictures, statues, and other valuables, were consumed; near five hundred of the defenceless inhabitants were killed; and the survivors were plundered of their remaining property, by the Austrians, Pandours, and Sclavonians, as soon as they could force their way into the town.

MISFORTUNES now poured in upon the King of Prussia from every quarter.

THE army of observation commanded by the Duke of Cumberland, who was restricted by the Hanoverian council from acting otherwise than on the defensive, continually retired before the French, under M. D'Estrees, who had passed the Weser, till arrived at Hastenbeck, within a few miles of Hammelen, where it was judged that the superior numbers of the enemy might be the least prejudicial; and even there, notwithstanding the advantage of situation, the excellent conduct of the Duke, and the bravery of the Hanoverian soldiers, the allied army, after a struggle of three days, was driven on the 25th of July from the field

field of battle, and unfortunately retreated towards Stade. His Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland, by inadvertently taking this route instead of retiring to the Prussian garrison at Magdeburg, full fifty miles nearer, was forced into a sort of *cul de sac*; where, being unable from his situation to retire, or from his strength to advance, he was finally compelled, on the 8th of September, to sign the remarkable capitulation of Closter Seven, by which 38,000 Hanoverians laid down their arms, and were dispersed into different quarters of cantonment.

THE Hanoverians being thus entirely subdued, all the French forces, now under the command of the Duke de Richelieu, who had on the 6th of August succeeded M. D'Estrees as commander in chief, were let loose by this treaty, and consequently ready to fall on the King of Prussia's dominions; and though, it is true, an enterprize was concerted in England against the coast of France, to make a diversion in his favour, by drawing part of the French army to the defence of their own country, it effected nothing material towards the relief of his Prussian majesty, who had
not

not only approved but earnestly recommended the measure, as appears from Sir John Ligonier's letter explaining the instructions given on that occasion.

THE Russians, in the mean time, who had long seemed irresolute and inactive, on a sudden resumed their march, under Marshal Apraxin and General Fermor, and entered into Ducal Prussia, marking their progress by every species of inhumanity; an army of 22,000 Swedes penetrated into Prussian Pomerania, laying the whole of that country under contributions; the Imperial army of execution, joined by the French under the Prince de Soubise, undertook the recovery of Saxony; and the Austrians were left at full liberty to employ the greatest part of their forces in the reduction of Silesia.

ALL that had a few months before threatened the enemies of the King of Prussia, seemed now only to have been delayed that it might fall with accumulated weight on his own head.

AFTER the King of Prussia had relieved his brother Henry, Marshal Keith was ordered to
quit

quit the mountains of Bohemia, and join the royal army: a service which was not effected without considerable opposition from the enemy's irregulars, who greatly annoyed the rear of Marshal Keith's army, and carried off some of his baggage and provisions. On their junction, between Bautzen and Gorlitz, the united force of the two Prussian armies amounted to 60,000 men; exclusive of twelve battalions of infantry, and ten squadrons of horse, stationed at Pirna under the Prince of Anhalt Dessau, to prevent any surprize on Dresden, to secure the passes of the mountains, and to check the incursions of Austrian parties, with whom daily skirmishes occurred, which terminated with various success.

A LARGE body of Austrians had entered Silesia, and penetrated as far as Breslaw; but, as they found the Prince of Bevern's army encamped within sight of that city, they abandoned their design of besieging it, and turned their attention towards the important fortress of Schweidnitz, which they soon afterwards approached in form.

WHILE

WHILE the Austrians were thus employed, his Prussian majesty laboured incessantly to draw their main army into such situations as might enable him to combat them with advantage. With this view, he quitted his camp at Bautzen; and, after several judicious motions, took post at Budin on the 15th of August.

THE Imperial army of execution, and the French forces under the Prince de Soubise, were at this time conjunctively hastening against Saxony; and the King of Prussia made use of every artifice to force the Austrians into an engagement previous to the arrival of so many additional enemies; but all his stratagems proved ineffectual, though he even drew up his army within sight of the enemy, and actually offered them battle. He then detached 16,000 men, under General Winterfeldt, on the other side the Nieffe, to attack them in flank; but finding nothing could induce them to risque a battle, he resolved, without losing another moment, to meet the Imperialists on their march, and bring them to a separate engagement.

THE Prince of Bevern, Prince Ferdinand, and General Winterfeldt, were left with about 30,000 men to watch the motions of the Austrians, while his Prussian majesty and Marshal Keith proceeded on this expedition; and the instant it was known by the enemy that the king was absent, they came out of their camp, and a body of 5000 attacked two battalions in General Winterfeldt's division, whom they entirely cut to pieces, the brave general himself receiving a wound on the occasion which soon afterwards proved mortal.

THE King of Prussia, in the mean time, having received undoubted information that the Imperial and French forces were assembled at Erfurth with the view of penetrating into Saxony, and making themselves masters of the Elbe, he proceeded with a large body of his army to Naumbourg; and, in their march, the light horse had a skirmish with the enemy, greatly to the advantage of the Prussians.

THE royal army having passed the Sala at Naumbourg, they proceeded to Buttelftadt, where his Prussian majesty received the first intelligence of the convention at Closter Seven, and the Duke de Richelieu's invasion
of

of Halberstadt. He immediately detached Prince Ferdinand of Brunswick against the duke; who not only scoured the country, and beat up the quarters of the French at Egelen, but, on the advance of the main army against him, took post at Wanfleben, and cut off their supplies of provisions.

THE King of Prussia having collected his forces, and advanced to Erfurth, the Imperialists retreated before him, and were driven as far as the hills of Eisenach; and though little or nothing more could now be prudently attempted, an advanced post of hussars and dragoons, which had been stretched as far as Gotha, maintained it's ground against a large body under Prince Hildbourghausen, which had been sent to effect it's dislodgment.

It was about this period, when both these armies remained for some time inactive, that the King of Prussia, in consequence of the convention at Closter Seven, and the then alarming situation of his affairs, addressed to his ally, the King of Great Britain, the following manly and spirited letter, written with his own hand.

‘ I HAVE just been informed, that the business of a neutrality for the Electorate of Hanover is not yet dropped. Can your majesty have so little constancy and firmness as to sink under a few adverse events? Are affairs in so bad a situation that they cannot be retrieved? Consider the step which your majesty proposes to take, and that which you have induced me to take. You are the cause of all the misfortunes now ready to fall on me. I should never have broken my alliance with France, but for your fair promises. I repent not of my treaty with your majesty; but do not shamefully abandon me to the mercy of my enemies, after having brought upon me all the powers of Europe. I expect that your majesty will remember your renewed engagements, and that you will not listen to any treaty in which I am not comprehended.’

IN consequence of this letter, his Britannick majesty, on the 16th of September, ordered the following declaration to be communicated to all the foreign ministers resident at the court of London.

‘ THE

‘ THE king having ordered an account to
‘ be given him of the representations of M.
‘ Michell, in relation to some overtures made
‘ by his majesty’s Electoral ministers concern-
‘ ing the checks received in Germany, hath
‘ commanded that answer be given to the King
‘ of Prussia’s minister—that it never was his
‘ majesty’s intention, that the said overtures,
‘ made without the participation of the British
‘ council, should have the least influence on
‘ his majesty’s conduct as King. His majesty
‘ sees, in the same light as before, the pern-
‘ cious effects of the union between the courts
‘ of Vienna and Versailles, which threaten
‘ a subversion of the whole system of publick
‘ liberty, and of the independence of the Eu-
‘ ropean powers. He considers, as a fatal
‘ consequence of this dangerous connection,
‘ the cession made by the court of Vienna of
‘ the ports of the Netherlands to France, con-
‘ trary to the faith of the most solemn treaties;
‘ and, in such a critical situation, whatever
‘ may be the success of arms, his majesty is
‘ determined to act in constant concert with
‘ the King of Prussia, in employing the most
‘ efficacious means to frustrate the unjust and
‘ oppressive

‘oppressive designs of their common enemies; and the King of Prussia may assure himself that the British crown will continue to fulfil, with the greatest punctuality, its engagements with his Prussian majesty, and to support him with firmness and vigour.

‘HOLDERNESSE.’

APPLICATION was also made by the King of Great Britain, in his Electoral capacity, by a memorial to the diet of the Empire, for the relief and redress of his Hanoverian dominions, invaded and seized by the Duke de Richelieu, who was enriching himself with excessive contributions, and the plunder of those countries which were unhappily exposed to his arms; thus repairing, by excessive cruelty, and the most infernal practices, that fortune which his personal vices had reduced.

BUT these just representations had no effect; and a proposition from the court of London, to extend the convention of Stade or Closter Seven to a general armistice, founding thereon a negociation for a general peace, was attended with as little success. The French had got possession

session of Hanover, and they were resolved to keep it; without paying the smallest regard to the truce which had been agreed on, while any breach of faith seemed to promise them advantage.

THE Hanoverians, roused by repeated insults, and the perpetual infraction of a solemn convention, without any prospect of redress, assembled at Stade, under Prince Ferdinand of Brunswick, and bravely resumed their arms, in spite of all the terrible denunciations of the Duke de Richelieu, who could not menace them with more fatal consequences than they had already in part experienced, though he threatened, in express words, to ‘ fire all their palaces, ‘ publick edifices, and gardens; to sack all their ‘ towns and villages, without sparing the ‘ smallest cottage; in short, to make the coun- ‘ try feel the utmost horrors of war.’

PRINCE Ferdinand bravely replied to these menaces, that he was determined to abide the consequences, and would personally decide all disputes at the head of his army. The Prince endeavoured to keep his word; but the Duke de Richelieu, after several skirmishes to the disadvantage

advantage of the French troops, studiously avoided a general engagement, and precipitately retreated, in his turn, before the Hanoverian army, till he got into Zell; where, calling in his advanced parties, he wantonly burnt and destroyed the farm-houses and sheep-walks in the vicinity; and, delivering up the city to be plundered by his troops, against all the rules of war, ordered the suburbs to be burnt to ashes, without sparing the orphan-house of helpless children, who were consumed in the flames kindled by this inhuman miscreant.

THE people of England, averse as they had been to a German war, began now to rejoice that the Hanoverians had resumed their arms, and the British parliament chearfully voted 100,000*l.* for their immediate support; thus enabling Hanover to find sufficient employment for the French grand army, which would otherwise have been ready to pour down a most powerful force on the King of Prussia, in addition to those of Austria and the empire.

BUT these were not the only operations necessary in the desperate situation of the King of Prussia's affairs; who had so many enemies to
encounter,

encounter, at the same period, that it is hardly possible to form any regular arrangement of the various transactions.

ONE of the first steps which had been taken by his Prussian majesty, after the miscarriage at Kolin, was to check the force of those enormities which disgraced the Russian arms; and, having in vain tried the effect of a pacifick memorial to the court of Petersburg, he sent an army of 30,000 men, under Marshal Lehwald, to stop the progress of their savage cruelty.

ON this occasion, the following letter was published at Berlin by authority.

‘ THE enemy, notwithstanding their superiority, are busied in entrenching themselves, and seem only studious to ruin the country in the most barbarous manner. The farmers have sown none of their lands this season, and the enemy pillage all without distinction. General Fermor’s army, it is true, has kept tolerable discipline; for, whatever it may have plundered, it has nei-

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‘ther massacred or maimed. But nothing
‘can equal the disorders and cruelties which
‘mark the progress of the grand army. They
‘even cut off the nose and ears of the coun-
‘try people because they had nothing more
‘to give, and their cattle were driven away
‘and sold to the army for the most insignifi-
‘cant sums; the only excuse for which was,
‘that the Cossacks must have subsistence, and
‘get money. The disorders they have com-
‘mitted fill the soul with horror. Many of
‘the peaceable inhabitants have been hanged;
‘several have had their limbs wantonly hewn
‘off; and some have even been ripped up
‘alive, and had their hearts torn out by the
‘hands of these merciless barbarians. Chil-
‘dren have been carried off from their parents;
‘and, in short, such atrocious cruelties are
‘daily exercised as shock human nature; and
‘must fix eternal infamy on the enemy, who
‘impiously call themselves Christians, and
‘promise in the memorials they have pub-
‘lished the utmost moderation and good dis-
‘cipline. The inhabitants of the country,
‘driven to despair, take arms wherever they
‘can procure them, and endeavour to defend
‘their

‘ their lives, and the few effects they have
 ‘ been able to carry off to their places of re-
 ‘ treat. The master of a vessel from Riga,
 ‘ in addition to this shocking account, de-
 ‘ clares that more than a hundred women had
 ‘ chosen rather to throw themselves into the
 ‘ sea at Memel, than submit to the brutalities
 ‘ of these horrid monsters.’

THUS it appears, amidst all the aggrava-
 tions which may be fairly suspected, that the
 Russian army really acted with more cruelty to
 the defenceless inhabitants of Prussia, than that
 of Prussia had before been too justly charged
 with having exercised towards those of Saxony.

THE Prussians under Marshal Lehwald,
 full of indignation against the perpetrators of
 so many barbarities, pressed forward to attack
 the main army; though they knew it consist-
 ed of 80,000 regular forces, entrenched in an
 advantageous situation near Norkitten, and
 defended by 200 pieces of cannon.

IT was, indeed, an enterprize of extraor-
 dinary hazard; little inferior to the attack of

Kolin, had the Russians been equally well disciplined.

THE Russian army was formed in four lines; each line covered by a numerous artillery, and defended by powerful batteries erected on all the eminences.

ON the 30th of August, at five in the morning, General Lehwald began the attack of this fortified and seemingly impregnable camp; and so furious was the onset of the Prussians, fighting for every thing that could be dear to man, that they entirely broke the whole first line of the enemy, and forced all their batteries.

THE Russian cavalry were likewise completely routed; and a regiment of their grenadiers at the same time cut to pieces by the Prussian dragoons under Prince Holstein Gottorp, brother to the King of Sweden.

NOTWITHSTANDING these advantages, the service was found too dangerous to be persisted in: and General Lehwald, who had lost upwards of 3000 of his brave men in carrying

rying the first entrenchment, perceiving that the second line was still more impregnable, very prudently retired, without exposing his whole army to inevitable destruction. This he effected in excellent order; without any attempt from the enemy to disturb his rear; and with no other loss than that of leaving the artillery taken from the first line, with eleven pieces of his own cannon, merely from the want of proper carriages to take them away.

THE Russians lost upwards of 10,000 men, among whom were three general officers; and General Lapuchin, and a colonel of artillery, were wounded and made prisoners, with many of inferior rank.

THE Prussians lost no officer of distinction, but Count Dohna was wounded.

THIS severe attack gave General Apraxin such a sample of the service he was to expect, should he proceed to favour the operations of Count Daun, according to his instructions, that the retreat of Marshal Lehwald in a great measure answered every purpose of a complete victory to Prussia.

ON the return of Marshal Lehwald to his camp at Velau, having mustered the remains of his army, he changed their position for a more advantageous one at Peterfswald, that he might with better effect oppose any future operations of the enemy.

THE Russians, however, remained quite inactive for a fortnight after the action; when, on the 13th of September, General Apraxin broke up his strong camp, and in a sudden and most astonishing manner retreated out of Prussia with such extreme precipitation, that he left behind him upwards of 15,000 sick and wounded, with eighty pieces of cannon, and a considerable quantity of military stores.

THIS extraordinary flight, which has been ascribed to the want of subsistence, was made by two columns, and by two routes; one proceeding towards Memel, and the other taking the nearest march to their own country through Lithuania or the bailiwick of Abster-nen. The retreat had been conducted with so much art, by advancing the irregulars towards the Prussian army in order to cover the true design, and which could never have been suspected,

spected, that it was not discovered till the third day.

MARSHAL Lehwald, on the first intelligence, detached Prince George of Holstein, with 10,000 horse, to pursue the fugitives; but they had made such forced marches, that only a few stragglers could be overtaken.

THOUGH the Russians pursued different routes, the progress of each column was marked with one uniform species of barbarity: both burning every village through which they passed, and practising such inhumanity, that the roads were left strewn with the dead bodies of men and horses. However, they completely evacuated the Prussian dominions, Memel only excepted, and relieved his Prussian majesty from all apprehensions of their making for this campaign any material diversion in favour of Austria.

WHILE this was transacting, the French had not only reduced Guelders, which surrendered by capitulation on the 24th of August, but were indefatigable in every where ravaging the open country, left entirely exposed

posed as far as Magdeburg; and the revenues were actually appropriated to the use of the Empress-queen, who immediately received, from Cleves and La Marcke, the sum of 200,000 crowns.

THE King of Prussia, in the mean time, was too abundantly employed in watching the Austrians and Imperialists, to spare any sufficient number of troops for the protection of his territories thus alarmingly invaded.

NOR were these prodigious armies the only enemies he had at the same instant to encounter: for the Swedes, availing themselves of the distressed situation of the King of Prussia's affairs, were ravaging Prussian Pomerania, and laying the neighbouring country under contribution.

THIS insolence of the Swedes his Prussian majesty was determined to chastise; he accordingly ordered Marshal Lehwald to proceed on that service, the instant he found himself at liberty from the flight of the Russians.

MARSHAL Lehwald immediately detached 16,000 men into Pomerania, under the
command

command of Prince George of Holstein Gottorp, and soon after followed with the remainder of his army.

THOUGH Count Hamilton, who commanded the Swedish army, had only 22,000 men, he was in daily expectation of being reinforced by 15,000 French, and 6000 Mecklenburgers: but the celerity with which Marshal Lehwald executed the orders of his Prussian majesty, effectually prevented this junction, and reduced the Swedes to such straits, that they were under no small apprehensions of experiencing a fate similar to that of the Saxon army at Pirna.

IN short, Marshal Lehwald not only recovered the whole country which had been seized on by Sweden, driving their troops every where before him, but actually added to the dominions of his royal master all Swedish Pomerania, the fortified town of Stralsund alone excepted: nor did he fail to make the Duke of Mecklenburg heartily repent of the part he had agreed to take against the King of Prussia, by raising heavy contributions on his hereditary dominions.

THUS the Swedes, without a single battle, concluded their campaign; losing nearly one third of their men, by sickness and desertion, besides those who were killed and taken prisoners in the several skirmishes which occurred.

BUT although the Russians and Swedes were by these means happily disposed of, the Austrians, the Imperialists, and the French, still remained in such alarming force as might well have appalled the bravest hero obliged to meet them with the comparatively small armies of Prussia.

WHILE his Prussian majesty remained encamped at Erfurth, towards the latter end of October, incapable of opposing in all quarters the numerous armies engaged against him, and studious to attack his dominions wherever they were most exposed, a considerable body of Hungarians, under the command of General Haddick, having penetrated through Lusatia into Brandenburg, marched up to the gates of Berlin, and absolutely laid that capital under contribution.

THE seasonable approach, however, of the Prince of Anhalt Dessau, soon checked the devastation

devastation which must otherwise have ensued on this occasion.

MARSHAL Keith, about this time, had retired to Leipfick, with that part of the army under his command; and the confederated armies finding the Prussian forces thus divided, were resolved to seize the opportunity of attacking him. They accordingly advanced, by cantonments, through Naumburg, Zeets, and Weiffenfelds; not at all doubting that they should instantly become masters of the river Sala, of Leipfick, and of the Prussian magazines at Torgau.

THE King of Prussia, more fatigued by continually watching the enemy, and fruitlessly labouring to bring them to engage, than he could possibly have been by the most active and severe service, had probably made some of these dispositions with no other view than to invite an attack which a less vigorous mind would most certainly have been equally studious to avoid. Be this as it may, on the first advice that the Imperialists, joined by the French forces under the Prince de Soubise, were in full march to attack Marshal Keith,

the king ordered his whole army to assemble at Leipfick; a business which was effected with such expedition, that the troops from Lusatia, as well as those from Magdeburg, joined the royal army on the 26th instant.

HIS Prussian majesty lost no time in making every necessary disposition to give the enemy battle: but they still avoided any decisive contest when the moment for action arrived, eager as they had lately seemed for the opportunity to engage, and which now fairly presented itself on the spacious plains of Lutzen.

ON the 30th, the King of Prussia advanced still nearer to the enemy; and, next day, having drawn up his army with an intention to attack them in their quarters, he took 500 prisoners, but was unable to proceed farther than Lutzen.

ON the 1st of November, the king having received information that the enemy were on all sides retiring, he marched with the vanguard to attack Weiffenfelds, and forced the garrison to abandon that post, with the loss of 300 men made prisoners in their retreat.

THE enemy, to escape their pursuers, burnt the fine bridge across the Sala, which had cost 100,000 crowns building; while the position of the Imperialists on the opposite side of the river, behind walls, and in huts, to oppose any repairs of the bridge, seemed to indicate an intention of disputing the passage of the Sala with the Prussians.

THE bridges at Merseburg, and at Hall, were likewise found to be burnt, when Marshal Keith, with the main army, arrived at those places. The marshal immediately proceeded to repair the respective bridges; and, being in possession of Hall, Merseburg, and Weissenfelds, the whole Prussian army crossed the Sala in three columns, forcing the enemy to evacuate all their posts on the river, and retire to Micheles. The Prussians, having joined, proceeded the same day to the village of Rosbach, directly facing the enemy's camp.

THE King of Prussia, having in person reconnoitred the enemy's situation and strength, and discovered that they were most exposed to the right, made the necessary preparations for attacking them on that side the next day.

IN the morning, however, when every thing seemed ready for action, and the cavalry in the van were absolutely put in motion, an order was suddenly issued for the troops not to proceed.

THE King of Prussia, with his usual precaution, had again reconnoitred the enemy; and he discovered that they had, during the night, artfully changed the position of their camp, which now not only faced the Prussian army, but was compleatly covered in front by a large hollow way, the right being posted on an eminence in a wood, and fortified with three strong redoubts, besides barricades of trees. This disposition rendering it highly unadvisable to proceed, his Prussian majesty very prudently postponed the intended attack, and ordered his whole army into encampment: while the enemy, thus disappointed, opened a brisk but wanton cannonade, which continued the whole day, without doing any other execution than killing nine men.

THE unexpected alteration in the motions of the Prussian army being ascribed to a diffidence in their own strength, the enemy began
to

to suspect an intended retreat, and detached several parties to harrafs them: and now the Imperialists, who had hitherto avoided coming to action, elated by the supposed depression of the Prussians, resolved not only to wait the King of Prussia's so long dreaded attack, but absolutely to begin the engagement by seeking him in his own camp.

ACCORDINGLY, on the 5th instant, about nine in the morning, their infantry having approached along the rising grounds nearer to the Prussian camp, began to file off to the right, and the whole army was put in motion: a large body of cavalry at the same time marched towards the left, directing their course along the heights which surrounded the Prussians, and within the reach of heavy artillery.

IT was two o'clock before the King of Prussia could form any certain judgment of the enemy's true design; when it became manifest that, after doubling the left of the Prussians, and directing their march towards Merseburg, that they might be enabled to cut off a retreat, they intended to open the engagement

ment by an attack on the rear of the king's army, which would then be effectually surrounded.

HIS Prussian majesty, satisfied of the enemy's real intention, resolved to prevent it's accomplishment by instantly commencing the action: he therefore seized the critical moment; and, to baffle all their art, and ensnare them in their own toils, drew up his army in order of battle, and by half a turn to the left marched parallel with the enemy.

IT was in this position that the King of Prussia addressed his army in the following memorable speech.

‘ My brave friends! the hour is arrived,
‘ when all that is, and all that ought to be,
‘ dear to us, depends on the swords which are
‘ now drawn for the battle. Time permits me
‘ to say but little, nor is there occasion to say
‘ much. You know that there is no labour,
‘ no hunger, no cold, no watching, and no
‘ danger, that I have not hitherto shared with
‘ you: and you see me now ready to lay down
‘ my life, with you, and for you. All I re-
‘ quire

‘quire is, the same pledge of fidelity and affection as I give! Let me, however, add— not as any incitement to your valour, but as a testimony of my own gratitude—that from this hour, till we go into quarters, your pay shall be double. Acquit yourselves like men, and put your confidence in God!’

THE effect of this speech is inconceivable; the whole army burst into an universal shout, and every bosom felt conscious of success in the battle which each was impatient to begin.

IT must, however, be confessed, that nothing short of enthusiastic ardour could have expected a victory: the united army under the Prince of Saxe Hilburghausen and the Prince de Soubise, consisting of at least 50,000 effective troops; while the Prussians, after leaving five battalions for the garrison of Leipzig, a battalion at Halle, another at Merseburg, and a third at Weissenfelds, scarcely amounted to 18,000 men.

BUT they considered that they were subjects of the King of Prussia; that they were

to fight in the presence of their sovereign, himself the bravest man on earth; and that the contest was for the preservation of a monarch whom they thus idolized, as well as for the security of their own personal freedom, the rights of their country, and every thing that is most valuable to all who truly deserve the name of men.

THE King of Prussia had, at first, resolved to open the engagement with an attack on one wing only; and, from the disposition of the enemy, the left seemed best calculated for this purpose: but, at the very instant when the battle was about to commence, his majesty countermanded the original orders, and gave instructions for such a position of his right wing as should prevent its being surrounded by the enemy. In the mean time, all the cavalry of the right wing, except two or three squadrons, from extreme eagerness for action, had advanced to the left on full gallop, and formed opposite the enemy, as at first instructed. By these motions, however, the Prussian cavalry gained the rising grounds, and made excellent use of the advantage. They began the attack by taking the enemy's cavalry in flank,

flank, and the charge was astonishingly fierce. Several French regiments came on with great resolution; but, after a few discharges, they were driven back by the Prussians, who pursued them for a considerable time. At length, an eminence gave the flying troops an opportunity of rallying, and they ventured to make a stand: here, however, they were so severely handled by the victorious pursuers, that they at length betook themselves to flight in the most compleat disorder.

WHILE the cavalry were thus actively engaged, the infantry had opened themselves; and, though briskly cannonaded by the enemy, who did considerable execution, the Prussian artillery was at the same time incessantly directed with still superior effect. This severe cannonade having continued without intermission for about twenty minutes, the fire of the infantry commenced; and so continual was the discharge, that the enemy were unable to sustain the severe shock of the Prussian foot, who gallantly advanced up to the enemy's batteries, and carried them, one after another, with the most irresistible bravery, the enemy every where

giving way before them, in the greatest disorder and confusion.

As the left wing advanced, the right changed it's position, and reached a small rising ground, on which they immediately planted sixteen pieces of heavy cannon, so as to fire on the enemy's right, and increase their disorder, as well as to gall excessively the front of their left wing.

FROM these dispositions, and with exertions of valour never perhaps exceeded, the King of Prussia personally leading on his troops the whole time, exposed to the hottest fire of the enemy, at five in the afternoon, victory declared in favour of the brave Prussians. The artillery was compleatly silenced; the army on all sides fled; and only six battalions of the Prussian left were engaged.

THE pursuit was eager; but the fast approach of a night excessively dark, favoured the flying army, and prevented the conquerors from reaping all the fruits of their victory. The fugitives fled rapidly the whole night; and, by the morning, had hurried forward as
far

far as Freybourg, where they effected their passage over the Unstrut, and at length reached Eckerburg.

HIS Prussian majesty, at the first dawn of day, set out with all his cavalry, supported by four battalions of grenadiers, to overtake the enemy, leaving orders for his whole infantry to follow by two columns; but, having to repair the bridge at Freybourg, which they had burnt in their retreat, it was near five in the evening before his majesty could come up with them, when he immediately proceeded to post his cavalry in an advantageous situation on the hills of Eckerburg, but was unable to proceed farther, on account of the extreme darkness of the evening, which now a second time favoured the enemy.

THEY, however, according to their own published accounts, had very little to boast; for they had only just got together, and were sitting down to dinner, when they perceived the Prussians were at their heels, and heard the tremendous roar of their cannon: accordingly, they again set off, with the utmost expedition; and,

and, marching all night, at length got into Erfurth, harrassed in their flight by the Prussian hussars, who took from them near 300 loaded waggons.

THE enemy left dead on the field of battle, at Rosbach, 3000 men; and 6000 were made prisoners, exclusive of eight French generals, several German generals, and 250 officers of different ranks. The King of Prussia also took 163 pieces of cannon, 15 standards, and several pair of colours; and, besides the above number of prisoners, there were 300 waggon-load of wounded, whom the king sent to Leipzig.

THE loss of the Prussians was truly inconsiderable, not exceeding 300 killed and wounded: among whom, however, Colonel Prignitz was killed; and Prince Henry, General Seidlitz, and General Meinecke, were slightly wounded.

THE glorious success of this compleat victory left the Imperialists utterly incapable of renewing hostilities; and his Prussian majesty was now left at liberty to act in person against
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the Austrians, who had a vast force in Silesia, where they were making a very serious progress. But though they had, on the 26th of October, opened their trenches before Schweidnitz; during the first fourteen days, they had been greatly interrupted by the perpetual sallies of the besieged.

PRINCE Charles of Lorrain, in the meantime, had encamped near Breslau, opposite the Prince of Bevern's army stationed to cover that city; and was anxiously waiting the reduction of Schweidnitz, when he expected to be reinforced by the troops of Bavaria and Wurtemberg employed on that service, and thus rendered capable of giving battle to the Prince of Bevern, or compelling his retreat from Breslau, which must then unavoidably fall into his hands.

THESE dispositions placed Silesia in the utmost danger of being compleatly wrested from the King of Prussia; and though his majesty had been apprized of the unfavourable prospect of affairs in the very part of his dominions which had at first given rise to the war, and the conquest of which would perfectly accomplish

compish the enemy's grand aim, he still entertained hopes that the garrison of Schweidnitz could not fail to hold out till himself should be enabled to relieve them.

UNFORTUNATELY, however, his Prussian majesty was too late: for though, on the 11th of November, the Austrians, in a general assault, which cost them several hundred men, could only carry two redoubts, without effecting any material breach in the ramparts of the town, the general officers who commanded at Schweidnitz thought proper to capitulate the very next day, in a most extraordinary manner; quite contrary to the inclinations of the brave garrison, who had before expressed a wish, which they then repeated, that they might be allowed to force their way through the army of the besiegers.

Thus this strong fortress, with 4000 of the finest soldiers in the world, and a vast quantity of ammunition, provisions, and money, fell into the hands of the enemy, who were now abundantly qualified to attack the Prince of Bevern. They had lost, it is true, 8000 men in the siege, but their united force was
treble

treble that of the prince's; and they resolved to seek him, when the remainder joined the main army near Lissa, in his strong camp under the walls of Breslau, before the king, who they knew was on full march for the relief of Silesia, could possibly arrive to his assistance.

GENERAL Nadaſti was accordingly posted with a large body of troops on the flank of the Prussian right wing; and at nine in the morning of the 22d instant, the general attack commenced. The Austrian right wing, however, in spite of every advantage, as well in numbers as in situation, was soon fairly repulsed, and obliged to retire towards Neumarck; while Lieutenant-general Ziethen, who commanded the left wing of the Prussians, gave General Nadaſti so warm a reception, that his separate corps was also completely routed.

THE slaughter of the Austrians was prodigious; amounting, it has been asserted, to full 20,000 men, in killed, wounded, and missing: and the greater part of their army having retreated, the remainder were prepar-

ing to follow, and to leave the Prussians compleat masters of the field of battle; when a conduct equally unaccountable with that which had influenced the surrender of Schweidnitz, induced the Prince of Bevern to retreat likewise. He therefore first withdrew the remainder of his army into their fortified camp; and afterwards, quitting this strong post, passed the Oder near Breslau, the succeeding night.

IN the mean time, the Austrians, returning, were astonished to find themselves possessed of the field they had so lately been compelled to relinquish.

It was still more remarkable, and gave rise to many additional conjectures at this mysterious period, that the Prince of Bevern, two days after the battle, going to reconnoitre, at four o'clock in the morning, without escort, and accompanied only by a single groom, was taken prisoner by a small party of Croats, who had crossed the Oder under General Beck.

THESE advantages, on the part of Austria, were immediately succeeded by another,

ther, less dearly purchased, but not of inferior value.

LIEUTENANT General Lestwitz, who commanded the garrison at Breslau, relinquishing all hope of support from an army which possessed too little sagacity to improve the advantage it's valour had obtained, and which was now so strangely deprived of it's commander in chief, and considering his own strength insufficient to maintain a place at once so ill fortified and so extensive, consented to a capitulation, in which it was stipulated, that the garrison should have free liberty to march out, under special restrictions from bearing arms against the House of Austria during the remainder of the war.

WHILE the affairs of his Prussian majesty, in Silesia, bore this unfavourable aspect, the king himself, having collected his troops after the battle of Rosbach, and at the distance of above 200 miles, was making a most rapid march through Thuringia, Misnia, and Lusatia; in spite of every effort from General Haddick and General Marshal, who had been posted in Lusatia to obstruct him.

A CIRCUMSTANCE peculiarly pleasing, however, happened, during the king's march, to compensate, in a slight degree, for the losses he had sustained in the country to which he was hastening.

THE garrison of Schweidnitz had submitted with reluctance to the capitulation which bound their hands from the service of their king and country; and, while they were on the road to their intended confinement in Bohemia, under a guard of Austrians, happening accidentally to hear the news of their fellow-soldiers victory at Rosbach, under the eye of their royal master, they were so animated by the intelligence, and so disdainful of their own ignominious but undeserved fate, that they unanimously rose on the escort which was conducting them, and which fortunately happened not to be very strong, and compleatly dispersed or destroyed every man. Thus liberated, they pursued their march; not very certain of their way, but full of spirits, and by no means destitute of the hope that they should be able to join some corps of their countrymen. The route they casually took, fortunately led them to the army commanded

manded by the king himself, and which was hastening to their relief.

THIS little incident was highly gratifying to his Prussian majesty; while it added considerably to the strength of his army, and in no small degree to that excess of spirits which, as he often had the satisfaction of experiencing, is still more serviceable to an army than even strength itself.

ON the 29th, the King of Prussia entered Silesia, and arrived at Parchwitz, on the Oder; where he was joined by the brave troops who had, under the command of the Prince of Bevern, and Lieutenant-general Ziethen, so nobly contended with the whole Austrian army.

WITH this additional force, his Prussian majesty, on the 1st of December, found his army sufficiently prepared to face the enemy; and, being only about two days march distant from their encampment, he on the 4th instant advanced with his whole army as far as Neumark.

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THIS unexpected visit threw the hussars and Pandours, many thousands of whom were posted at this place, and resting, as they thought, perfectly secure, into the greatest confusion imaginable. However, they instantly closed the gates of the town against the advancing army; and, in the mean time, fled as fast as possible towards Breslau: but the king, naturally suspecting this, had ordered several squadrons of dragoons and hussars to file round the walls, and cut off a retreat, so that the action became desperate, and 300 Austrians were cut to pieces, and 690 taken prisoners, with the loss of only five Prussian hussars.

THE royal army soon forced the gates; and the enemy being entirely driven out, the King of Prussia took possession of the town, which was found to contain all the enemy's ovens, besides a small magazine, and a few pieces of cannon.

THE Austrian army, mortified at the insult of thus having their quarters beat up, and confiding in their superior numbers, with a resolution very different from the in general cool conduct of Count Daun, determined to quit
their

their strong camp under the walls of Breslau, which had been before occupied by the Prince of Bevern, and to seek the King of Prussia, that they might chastise what was deemed his presumption.

HIS Prussian majesty, apprized of their design, resolved to meet the enemy; and, at five o'clock in the morning of the 5th instant, being the very day month after the important and decisive battle of Rosbach, he began to march his whole army in pursuit of another engagement not less important, and under the fullest confidence that it would prove equally decisive.

AT dawn of day, the Austrian cavalry were descried on an eminence about half a league from Neumarck; and as, from the manner in which they were spread over the hills, they appeared, by the then imperfect light, to be the entire Austrian army, the king ordered his troops to march forward in two columns.

BUT, as the day broke, it was soon discovered that these heights were occupied by four regiments of Saxon light-horse only, under
Count

Count Nostitz, whom the Prussian hussars were immediately ordered to attack.

ABOUT 300 were accordingly killed and taken prisoners; but the remainder, under cover of a thick fog, effected their escape.

THIS fog, however favourable to these Saxon troops, was not less so to the King of Prussia; for it enabled his whole army to approach the Austrians, which they did about noon, before his intention was suspected.

THE ground occupied by the Austrians was greatly in their favour, and every advantage of situation had been to the utmost improved by the diligence and skill of Count Daun; who, knowing he had been the only general that ever carried the field from the King of Prussia, could not fail to know, better than almost any other person, how very difficult it would be to obtain such another victory.

THE Austrians were drawn up in order of battle, on a fine plain, fronting the village of Leuthen. The adjacent eminences were well furnished with artillery; the ground was also interspersed

interspersed with thickets, which considerably favoured their operations; and on the right and left were commanding hills fortified by strong batteries of heavy cannon; in front, the ground was intersected by many causeways; and, to render the whole more impracticable, felled trees were laid across the ways, wherever the thickets seemed unlikely to favour their operations. The left wing, in particular, was covered by a wood of some extent, and they had cut down a great number of trees to prevent being flanked.

HIS Prussian majesty, undismayed by these advantageous dispositions in an army almost twice as numerous as his own, and commanded by a general whose great skill he could not fail to recognize, after reconnoitring the situation of the enemy, determined instantly to begin the attack by falling on their left wing.

ABOUT two o'clock in the afternoon the engagement commenced: Count Daun, with 70,000 excellent troops, thus advantageously posted; and the King of Prussia, with only 36,000 of his brave subjects, who had every possible impediment to encounter.

THE Prussian horse, at the onset, must have been wholly incapable of acting, if the king, by a most judicious disposition, had not overcome obstacles which appeared insurmountable. Suspecting that General Nadaſti, who was posted with a corps de reserve on the enemy's left, intended to take him in flank, his majesty had at first stationed four battalions of infantry behind the cavalry of his right wing. It happened just as the king had imagined: for General Nadaſti's horse made a most furious assault on the king's right wing, and so flanked the Prussian cavalry, that they actually began to give way; when these four battalions, opening a most severe fire, not only completely routed General Nadaſti's corps, but so effectually covered and supported the right wing, and at the same time acted so vigorously on the left of the enemy, that they were soon afterwards obliged to fall back.

THIS made way for the main body of Prussian infantry, who advanced in excellent order, though exposed the whole time to one of the most dreadful and continued discharges of artillery and small arms, from all quarters, that was perhaps ever sustained.

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THE Prussian artillery, however, was most incomparably served; and, having ably supported the march of the infantry, and enabled them to act on grounds where the cavalry could give little or no assistance, soon silenced that of the enemy.

THE Austrians made a gallant resistance during the whole battle, and ably disputed every foot of the ground: but the Prussian valour was irresistible; the enemy were forcibly driven from the field; and the victory was lost, without the loss of honour, notwithstanding the superiority of numbers, and the advantage of situation, which the vanquished had at first possessed.

COUNT Daun rallied all his forces at Leuthen, which was defended on every side by redoubts and entrenchments: but the reiterated and impetuous attacks of the persevering Prussians, led on by the king in person, though sustained for near an hour with great firmness, at length mastered the post, and the Austrians were compleatly routed.

THE Prussian dragoons and hussars pursued the flying army great part of the night, and

brought in many thousand prisoners; while the king himself joined the pursuit as far as Lissa, where his army remained all night under arms.

THE vast generalship, and very uncommon bravery, displayed on both sides, in this battle, may serve to account for the obstinacy of the contest, and the prodigious loss of men.

THE entire dispositions of the Prussian army were made by the king himself, who personally commanded the right wing, assisted by Prince Maurice of Anhalt Dessau, while the left was committed to the conduct of General Retzow.

GENERAL Ziethen, who commanded the cavalry, effected wonders: and a cornet of his regiment, in the pursuit after the battle, with a party of ten men only, took a hundred Austrians prisoners, and carried them to the headquarters; for which gallant action the king immediately promoted him to the rank of captain, and honoured him with the Order of Merit.

THE Austrians had 6000 slain in battle, and upwards of 20,000 wounded and made prisoners.

prisoners. They also lost, in killed, wounded, and taken prisoners, 250 officers of different ranks: among whom were Count Luchese, left dead in the field; and the Prince De Lichtenstein, General O'Donnel, the Saxon General Count de Nostitz, and the son of the late Count Brown, all dangerously wounded; and 4000 waggons, loaded with baggage and ammunition, 200 pieces of cannon, and upwards of 50 colours and standards, fell into the hands of the King of Prussia; who lost no more than 500 men killed, and had somewhat less than 2500 wounded.

THE Prussian troops, full of ardour, were desirous of being immediately led by their royal master to the attack of Breslau; and, strongly fortified as it was with a garrison of 14,000 Austrians, to attempt carrying it by storm: but though the king very prudently declined an enterprize of such imminent hazard, he ordered the usual approaches to be made for conducting a regular siege.

THE King of Prussia, having possessed himself of the suburbs, erected two batteries, which were soon ready to play; and, carrying
a parallel

a parallel within 400 paces of the city ditch, he approached Schweidnitz gate.

IN the night of the 15th, at the beginning of the bombardment, a tower situated on the shoulder of a bastion, and which served the garrison as a powder magazine, was compleatly blown up; and the explosion making a considerable breach in the ramparts, greatly facilitated the success of the siege.

ON the 16th, the cannon of the besieged having been almost wholly dismounted, their batteries were silenced; on the 17th, the Prussians advanced considerably by sap; on the 18th they erected a new battery to the right of the parallel; on the 19th they had advanced within 140 paces of the ditch, considerably augmenting the breach; and, on the 20th, they reduced the besieged to the necessity of capitulating, when the whole garrison became prisoners of war.

IN the Austrian military chest, at Breslau, the King of Prussia found 144,000 florins; the magazines were well stocked; and, besides
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the artillery of the place, eighty pieces of Austrian cannon fell into the hands of his majesty.

THE vigilance of the king to improve every advantage, is astonishing; for, on the 24th, at break of day, he marched part of his army, and a large train of artillery, through a deep snow, to invest Schweidnitz, which was garrisoned by 7000 men.

NOR did these operations at all prevent other exertions to drive the enemy out of Silesia.

A DETACHMENT under Baron Fauqué having been ordered to pursue the Austrian fugitives, had reached Freyburg on the 18th instant, from whence the enemy was instantly dislodged; and, as the Prussians advanced to Freyburg, Strigau, Kunsdorf, and other open towns, the Austrians precipitately fled before them. On the 19th, 60 waggons, loaded with meal for the supply of the garrison at Schweidnitz, were taken; and the escort, consisting of 200 men, all made prisoners. On the 20th, the Baron having continued the pursuit as far as Reichenau, attacked the fugitives on the hills near Landshut, where they had halted and entrenched

entrenched themselves, with a reinforcement of 2000 men from Liebau: and, notwithstanding their infantry was now more numerous than that of the pursuers, they were forced from their trenches, and fairly driven through Griffau and Liebau; which towns of course fell into the hands of the Prussians, with 2000 tons of meal, vast quantities of forage, and many thousand bombs, bullets, and granadoes. The mountains of Silesia being thus scoured, such of the enemy as escaped were driven in the most forlorn condition, half-naked, and destitute of food, into the circle of Königsgratz.

IN the mean time, the towns of Jaggen-dorff, Troppau, Tetschen, and Strigau, in Upper Silesia, were wrested from the enemy; and, on the 29th instant, Lignitz had surrendered, where a considerable magazine of provisions, some artillery, and a large quantity of ammunition, fell into the King of Prussia's hands. The garrison of Lignitz, however, was permitted to retire, from the inconvenience of keeping so many prisoners; the king having, at the conclusion of this campaign, a much greater number of prisoners than men in his own army: and the empress-queen, who had
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a few weeks before considered herself perfectly established in the possession of Silesia, had now no other footing throughout that country, than the blockaded and forlorn garrison of Schweidnitz, the fate of which was only delayed by the extreme rigour of the season.

THUS the King of Prussia, by his own skill and magnanimity, and with little or no assistance from England, his sole ally—which had not been very able, nor indeed remarkably willing, to afford him any effectual aid—freed his dominions from the invasions of five powerful enemies, who were now every where driven before him.

BUT though the people of England, from their aversion to a German war; or rather, perhaps, their envy or jealousy occasioned by George the Second's supposed partiality for Hanover, his electoral dominions; entered very reluctantly into a cordial alliance with the King of Prussia—when they once became thoroughly convinced of the necessity there was for such an alliance, to preserve the balance of power in Europe; and still more,

when they saw with what matchless resolution and courage the king himself faced his innumerable enemies, and with what prodigious bravery his intrepid soldiers resisted the confederated armies of so many extensive empires leagued to crush one little nation, supported only by superior valour; the congenial state of their own country, and the congenial heroism of their own hearts, kindled in every bosom the ardent flame of amity for the subjects of his Prussian majesty, and of resentment against their pusillanimous foes—while the King of Prussia himself absolutely became their idol, and the anniversary of his birth was celebrated in England with such demonstrations of joy and affection, as are never exceeded, and not often equalled, on the birth-days of our own most favourite sovereigns.

THE King of Prussia, by his victories at the close of a campaign which had displayed so many remarkable revolutions of fortune, added largely to his customary resources; and these resources were far more considerable than had been generally imagined, while the seizure of Saxony yielded him such copious supplies,

plies, as very essentially to save his own revenue.

HIS troops, in the mean time, had acquired such a matchless reputation for bravery, that they were never likely to be encountered, without some degree of dread, by any number of their enemies.

NOTWITHSTANDING this disadvantage, and the important additional one of exhausted treasuries, the confederates seemed wonderfully agreed to persist in a war, the utmost success in which could impart but a very small portion either of glory or dominion, to be divided among so many nations.

THE Russian army, which had so precipitately retreated home, was now considerably augmented, and divided into two separate bodies; and Marshal Apraxin being disgraced, General Fermor was appointed to command in chief, assisted by General Brown, with express orders to march back again into Prussia, regardless of the inclemency of the season.

THIS vigorous measure of the Czarina was in consequence of a new and quadruple alliance with Austria, France, and Sweden, to which she had recently been induced to accede, by the insidious policy of the courts of Versailles and Vienna.

GENERAL Fermor obeyed his instructions with so much alacrity, that he possessed himself of Königsburg, the capital of Ducal Prussia, on the 22d of January 1758, having met with no sort of opposition.

AFTER ravaging the adjacent country, General Fermor joined his main army, which had encamped on the Vistula, in the vicinity of Dantzick, with an evident design to seize on that free city; as seems abundantly manifest, from the demand then made for the admission of a Russian garrison. This, however, was so peremptorily refused by the Dantzickers, who stood resolutely on their own defence, that General Fermor deemed it unadvisable to carry matters to extremity. He therefore crossed the Vistula, and marched a strong detachment towards Pomerania; but, finding Count Dohna had assembled a considerable

derable army, fully determined to oppose him, he again retired to his encampment on the Vistula; and waited for fresh orders from the court of Peterfburg to direct his future operations.

EARLY in March, the Imperialists, under the Prince of Deux Ponts, began to assemble near Bamberg in Franconia; and France was preparing a new and powerful army, with an intention to add such additional force as might infallibly crush the King of Prussia, when a weight equally powerful was to fall on England, his presumptuous ally.

THE good understanding which had happily began to prevail between England and Prussia, was now manifestly advantageous to both nations: for, before the confederated powers could unite, to strike the decisive blow so long meditated, his Prussian majesty detached 30,000 men under Prince Henry, to watch the motions of the Imperial army, and to prevent the intended junction; while Prince Ferdinand, with his young nephew, the hereditary Prince of Brunswick, furnished the French with sufficient employ, in guarding
their

their frontiers on the Rhine, and the operations of the British navy obliged them to keep many thousand troops for the protection of their own coast.

ABOUT this time the important treaty between Prussia and England, signed the 11th of April, was negotiated: which, after stating the intentions of the contracting parties, in their former treaty of January 1756, to preserve the peace of Europe in general, and that of Germany in particular—the hostilities committed against their majesties in the Empire by the French, and their machinations for the incitement of other powers to commit similar outrages—the burdensome expences which had fallen on his Prussian majesty in consequence of those hostilities—and the mutual resolution of their majesties to defend and secure each other—proceeds to stipulate, that his Britannick majesty shall pay 670,000*l.* immediately after the ratifications are exchanged, to be employed by the King of Prussia in augmenting and keeping up forces to act as may be most for the interest of the common cause; and that neither of the contracting powers shall conclude any peace, make any
truce,

truce, or enter into any neutral treaty, without the participation of the other.

THE Austrians, under Count Daun, having assembled a grand army near Konigsgratz, in Bohemia, towards the latter end of March, seemed watching an opportunity to enter Silesia and Saxony; whither, indeed, the motions of all the various armies preparing to act against the King of Prussia were apparently directed.

THUS menaced by so many powerful enemies, his Prussian majesty had recourse to stratagem as well as force. Having turned the blockade of Schweidnitz into a regular siege, he opened the trenches on the third of April; and, notwithstanding a vigorous opposition from the grand Austrian army, in the space of thirteen days obliged the garrison to surrender prisoners of war.

THIS stroke, at the commencement of the campaign, cost the Austrians 7000 men, the number of which the garrison was originally composed; and they were driven to the necessity of entirely evacuating Silesia.

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DURING these transactions, General Fouquet marched a considerable detachment into the county of Glatz, and obliged the Austrian General Jahnus to abandon the posts he had maintained in that quarter; and soon after, his majesty in person marched with a part of his army towards Graßan and Friedland; and detaching a part of it to Fronteneau in Bohemia, dislodged an Austrian garrison, and opened a passage into Bohemia for the Prussian light horse, who laid the country under exactions, and penetrated as far as the main guard of Count Daun's army.

PRINCE Henry of Prussia secured Saxony with 30,000 men; and Silesia was protected from any danger of the Russians by a considerable body of troops, posted between Wolau and Glogau, exclusive of an army under Count Dohna in the eastern district of Pomerania.

BUT the military skill of the Prussian monarch was still more conspicuous in the masterly manner in which he posted these troops, so as to preserve a communication with each other, and to be able to act for their mutual defence, than his diligence had been signalized by

by their levy; and, to increase our admiration of his address, he found means to conceal his real design, and to render his plan of operations an impenetrable secret.

FROM the position of the Prussian army, Count Daun was induced to believe, that the campaign was to commence in Bohemia; and all his attention was directed to prevent any surprize in that quarter. But, all on a sudden, his Prussian majesty gave the Austrians the slip: for, with 50,000 troops collected in Silesia, he penetrated into Moravia by a rapid march; and having reached Troppau, he divided his army into two columns, giving Marshal Keith the command of the one, and retaining the other himself, while by different routes they entered the plain of Olmutz on the third of May.

THE Prussian General Fouquet remained in the county of Glatz, and had orders to watch the motions of Count Daun; but as soon as the enemy's motions indicated an intention of marching into Moravia, he proceeded to Neifs, and took under his convoy the artillery and warlike stores destined for the siege

of Olmutz. Without any molestation from the enemy, he drew his army over the Moraw at Littau, where he made some Austrians prisoners; and, about the same time, the king advanced towards Olitschau, where he dislodged a body of the enemy's cavalry, and forced them to retire beyond Prostnitz, in the vicinity of which town the Prince of Wirtemberg had encamped with four regiments of dragoons, one of hussars, and a few battalions of fuzileers.

THE trenches were opened before Olmutz, the 27th of May, on the side of Tobitschau; and the other side of the river, towards Dolein, was invested by a considerable detachment of infantry and cavalry. The king dislodged the Austrian and Saxon cavalry, under General Ville, beyond Wischaw; and his army took possession of all the posts which could contribute to the protection of the troops allotted for the siege.

FOURTEEN days after the trenches were opened, General Putkammer arrived from Silesia with a convoy; but as this was not judged sufficient for finishing the siege, a plan was

was concerted for bringing up another. In the meanwhile, the vanguard of the enemy, under General Harfch, arrived in Moravia, and encamped on the rising grounds of Aller-Heiligen, opposite to Littau. Marshal Daun had reached Gëwicz with his army; and, almost at the same time, a detachment of 5 or 6000 of the enemy advanced to Proßnitz, which obliged Marshal Keith to alter the position of his army. The enemy's design was to throw succours into the town; and this they effected in the night, in spite of all the vigilance and bravery of Keith.

HAVING been successful in this nocturnal excursion, the Austrians entertained a predilection for that mode of surprize: thrice, in the night time, did they attack the regiment of Zeithen at Kofcletz, who always repulsed them with loss; but the independent battalions of le Noble and Rapin were less fortunate, being so roughly handled by the Pandours, that they lost three small pieces of cannon, and near 400 men. However, the succours thus thrown into the town, and the flight disasters that attended particular stations, only animated the Prussian hero to more vigorous

efforts. Olmutz was still farther straitened on the other side of the Moraw; and such dispositions were made as might at once save the troops from surprize, and prevent the town from being relieved.

ON the 20th of June, Marshal Daun descended from the hills with his army, and pitched his camp at Predlitz; between Wischaw and Prostnitz. A few days after, he received advice that a large Prussian convoy, escorted by eight battalions, and nearly 4000 convalescents, who were regimented for the sake of preserving regularity in the march, was rapidly advancing to Olmutz. Marshal Daun was too discerning not to discover the advantages which would arise from his intercepting the enemy's supplies; and to make the attempt, at least, was more prudent than hazarding a general battle. He therefore detached General Jahnus towards Bahrn, and ordered another body of troops to proceed to Stadt-Liebe, that the convoy might be attacked on both sides; and, by way of feint, he approached the Prussian army, placing his right towards Kojetein, and his left at a little hill in the vicinity of Predlitz.

HOWEVER,

HOWEVER, his Prussian majesty was not to be duped by appearances; and the safety of the convoy being his principal object, he dispatched General Zeithen with a considerable force to meet and escort it. The Austrians had attacked it on the 28th, before the arrival of Zeithen; but the enemy were repulsed, and routed with considerable loss. Daun having reinforced the former detachment, the convoy was again attempted on the 29th, between Bautsch and Domstadt. Four hundred waggons, four battalions, and about a thousand troopers, had scarcely set forward on their march, and passed the defiles of Domstadt, when the united force of the enemy fell on the convoy, and soon found means to detach the van from the centre and rear. General Zeithen acquitted himself on this occasion with an address and intrepidity becoming a good officer; but he was obliged to abandon his waggons, and retire to Troppau. The head of the convoy arrived at the Prussian camp on the evening of the 29th; the rest fell into the hands of the enemy. The prisoners amounted to nearly 600 men, among whom were General Puttkammer.

THIS

THIS unpropitious event obliged the king to raise the siege of Olmutz at a time when it was so severely pressed, and so closely invested, that it could not have held out more than a fortnight, had the Prussians received the expected supplies.

THE king directed his march to Bohemia, with his whole army, on the first of July. Marshal Keith secured the artillery that had been employed in the siege with very little diminution; nevertheless, the attempt of Olmutz cost the Prussians 7 or 800 men in killed, wounded, and prisoners. The army marched in different divisions, and by different routes; and, by the regularity of the retreat, covered the shame of a disappointment.

INDEED, the extensive works of Olmutz, which the Prussians were obliged to invest, required a much greater number of troops to do it effectually, than had been allotted for that service. This gave the Austrians an easy opportunity of introducing provisions, ammunition, and men, into the town, during the night; and the forage about the city being previously destroyed, the Prussian cavalry were obliged to
seek

seek it at a great distance; which not only fatigued them, but also exposed them to ambuscades and surprizals from the Austrian detachments that were strongly posted in the mountains, and vigilant to embrace every opportunity of annoying their enemies. However, all these inconveniences did not dispirit his Prussian majesty: he had finished his first parallel; he was proceeding with such vigour, that the besieged began to tremble; and, had it not been for the irretrievable loss he received in his convoy, as previously stated, the capture of Olmutz would have added to the number of his successful endeavours.

To conduct a retreat with propriety, is the most difficult lesson in the art of war; and never was it studied in greater perfection than by the King of Prussia. He not only knew how to secure his troops from the ardour of a pursuing and elated enemy; but, by the route he took, to retaliate the injuries he had received. When the king decamped from Olmutz, instead of marching into Silesia, to protect that country from the insults of the triumphant Austrians, ready to pursue him; he took the route of Bohemia, whose frontiers had been left
unguarded

unguarded by his adversary; and, by this manœuvre, he transferred the seat of war from his own into his enemy's territories. The policy of this soon became apparent. A large body of Austrians, under General Laci, posted at Gibau, attacked a party of grenadiers, who occupied the village of Krenau, and made a feint of disputing the pass; but they were soon dislodged: an ineffectual attempt was made to seize the provisions and artillery in their passage over the hills of Hollitz; the enemy cannonaded General Rutzow and his party; but in these, and similar attempts, they were either repulsed with considerable loss, or missed the object for which they contended. So judiciously was the retreat conducted.

THE king directed his march to the very important post of Koninggratz, where General Buccow had arrived before him, and entrenched 7000 men behind the Elbe, all round the city. His majesty adopted the resolution of storming the Austrian trenches; and, as a preliminary effort, repaired all the bridges over the Elbe, with amazing expedition, which the Austrians had demolished. The bridges being replaced, such a panic seized the enemy, that they

they retired in confusion, and left the king to take possession of Koningsgratz without opposition, in the neighbourhood of which his whole army was speedily encamped. Thus he soon retrieved his miscarriage before Olmutz; he found means to stem the force of the Austrian army; and even laid Bohemia under heavy contributions: while his brother, Prince Henry, kept the army of the Empire in play, and prevented them from executing their hostile intentions on Dresden.

LET us now, for a moment, turn our eyes towards the allies, under Prince Ferdinand. United in the same cause, their successes contributed to the glory of the Prussian hero; and a general view of their exploits cannot be considered as foreign to the subject.

PRINCE Ferdinand, who had crossed the Rhine on the first of June, coming up with the French at Crevelt on the 23d, gained a signal victory; and, pursuing the advantage he had acquired, on the 28th he laid siege to Dusseldorp, a city advantageously situated on the Rhine, belonging to the Elector Palatine, which, after a severe bombardment, capitulated

on the 7th of July. However, the campaign under this illustrious commander was not wholly marked with the same success: he met with some repulses; but with none that could detract from his fame as a warrior, or which, in any considerable degree, injured the common cause.

THE King of Prussia did not long enjoy the advantages he was likely to derive from his inroad into Bohemia. The Russians, after several months marching and counter-marching through Poland and Prussia, in which they committed the most violent excesses of cruelty and rapine, to their own disgrace, as well as that of human nature, at last sat down with 90,000 men, and a formidable train of artillery, to besiege Custrin, a little town on the Elbe, almost destitute of fortifications, though the capital of the New Marche of Brandenburg. However, it's situation is naturally strong; for the River Warthe surrounds one part of it, and the Oder almost the other. Where the rivers are wanting, broad morasses supply their place; and the only road to the town is over those morasses, which are rendered passable by means of fifty-two bridges. The principal strength of Custrin consisted in a bridge on the Oder, defended

defended by a battery, and a well-built castle: the garrison was composed of no more than one battalion of regulars, one of militia, two companies of invalids, and about an hundred hussars.

IT was on the 13th of August that the Russians appeared before this city, about three in the afternoon; and a skirmish soon commenced, which lasted till seven, when the enemy retired, and the garrison demolished the bridge over the Oder.

COUNT Dohna, who had the command of the Prussian army encamped near Frankfort on the Oder, being applied to by the governor of Custrin, detached a considerable reinforcement to assist the garrison, under General Schorlemmer, who arrived next day. At the same time, Colonel Schack was invested with the offices of governor and commander in chief, in case a siege should be carried on.

ONLY a few Cossacks made their appearance on the 14th: but the succeeding morning, between four and five o'clock, the citizens were awakened and terrified by a confused noise,

mixed with shrieks, and a dreadful discharge of cannon balls. In less than half an hour, the Russian bombs and red-hot shot had fired the city in several parts; and speedily the conflagration increased to such a degree, that the inhabitants were obliged to seek for protection and shelter in the open fields.

Nothing met the eye at this time but wretchedness and misery; cries and lamentations resounded from every quarter. Those whom the flames had spared, the barbarous enemy butchered with brutal inhumanity; and such a scene of military horror was exhibited, as has seldom disgraced the annals of nations.

THE brave and patriotic Frederick could not silently suffer these outrages, or feebly oppose them. Though he had the fairest prospects of success in Bohemia, where, besides other inferior advantages, he had compelled Count Daun to fortify himself on the hills of Lebischau, the distresses of his faithful garrison of Custrin touched him to the soul. He decamped from Königsgratz; and, after some skirmishes, in which he lost General Saldern, and a few other officers and men, he encamp-
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ed at Landshut; and from thence he proceeded to join the army at Frankfort, under Count Dohna, where he arrived on the 22d.

THE resolute garrison of Custrin still held out against the mighty army and incessant fire of the Russians, without a single hovel to cover their heads from the heat of the day, or the dangers of the cannon balls. This conduct, as it increased the admiration of his Prussian majesty, so it determined him to lose no time in advancing to their relief. Accordingly, at ten o'clock of the same night that the junction was formed between his two armies, he began his march; and next day encamped at Dirmitzel, making the necessary dispositions for a speedy attack of the enemy.

ON the first intimation of his approach, the Russians broke up the siege of Custrin, and marched towards the villages of Zwicker and Zorndorff. It was the king's intention to wind round the left flank of their army, and take them in the rear, by which manœuvre he was in hopes of throwing them into confusion; but in this he found himself disappointed.

pointed. The generals of the Russian army anticipated his design, and made excellent dispositions. As the situation did not admit of a very extended line, they threw themselves into a square body, composed of four lines, forming a front almost equal on every side, entirely surrounded by cannon and chevaux de frize.

It was on the 25th of August, that his Prussian majesty, after a march of fifty-six days from the centre of Moravia, brought his army in sight of the Russians. The king himself had never been personally engaged with that enemy before; his troops had never gained any remarkable advantage over them; and, what would have thrown a damp over inferior resolution, the whole fortune of the war depended on the issue of this single day. However, several causes combined to excite the most generous resentments of every individual who composed the Prussian army. They were now, in the strictest sense, to fight for their country, which was on the verge of falling under one of the severest scourges with which Providence chastises nations. Every thing awakened the spirit of revenge. The marks of the enemy's cruelty were every where

where conspicuous; the country was reduced to the most deplorable situation; and the villages round the field of battle crimsoned the sky with their flames. Enthusiasm is the natural consequence of such scenes, when exhibited before patriotic minds; and, perhaps, the enthusiasm of military glory never glowed with more fervour than in the bosoms of the Prussians, before the commencement of the battle of Custrin. The action began at nine o'clock in the morning, near the village of Zorndorff, by a dreadful fire of cannon and mortars, which rained on the right wing of the Russians, without the least intermission, for little less than two hours. Nothing could exceed the havock of this terrible discharge; nor could the firmness with which the Muscovite foot, raw and undisciplined, sustained a slaughter that would have daunted and dispersed the most hardy veterans, be equalled by any thing but their insensibility. They fell in ranks; and new regiments still pressed forward to maintain the ground, and to supply new slaughter. The hardy Prussian infantry, which had often supported, and often given so many terrible shocks, by one of those unaccountable operations of the human mind that render the
events

events of war so precarious, gave way in the presence of their sovereign; and, after the victory was well-nigh secured by their valour, retired in disorder before the half-broken battalions of the Muscovites. Had the Russians known how to improve this disorder, or rather this relaxation of ardour, it is highly probable that day would have terminated the Prussian grandeur.

THE king, however, possessed his usual presence of mind: for, just in this anxious moment, while the battle was yet in suspense, by a very rapid and masterly motion, he brought all the cavalry of his right to the centre, which, headed by General Sedlitz, broke in upon the Russian infantry, unprotected by their horse, and disordered even by the advantage they had gained. A repulse, attended with a miserable slaughter, immediately took place; and the deranged Prussian battalions, having time to recollect and to form themselves, returned to the onset with a rage exasperated by their late disgrace, and entirely turned the balance of the fight. The Russians were thrown into the most dreadful confusion; the wind blew the dust and smoke full in their faces; they

they were unable to distinguish friends from foes; they fired on each other; and in this distraction they plundered their own baggage, which stood between the lines, and intoxicated themselves with brandy. Orders were no longer heard nor obeyed. The ranks fell in on each other; and being crammed together in a narrow space, every shot from the Prussian army had it's full effect; while the Russians kept up only a scattered fire, without direction, and without execution.

It was now no longer a battle, but a horrid and undistinguishing carnage; yet, what may encrease our wonder, the Russians, though thus distracted and slaughtered, still maintained their ground. The action continued from nine in the morning to seven in the evening, without the least intermission. At last the night, and the fatigue of the Prussians from their extraordinary and long continued exertions, gave the Russians a respite, which they gladly embraced; and retiring a little from the scene of their disaster, formed themselves into a square, in order to cover the remaining part of their baggage; and in this position they spent the night.

THIS bloody day cost the Russians upwards of 10,000 men on the spot; they had more than 10,000 wounded, most of them mortally; 939 officers, exclusive of subalterns, were killed, wounded, and taken prisoners; and, in short, their aggregate loss seems to have amounted to nearly 22,000 men. The entire loss of the Prussians did not exceed 2000 men; a number comparatively small, and which proved, that the Russians aided their own defeat.

HOWEVER, the gazettes of both parties warmly disputed the empty honour of the field of battle. The court of Vienna had the assurance to boast of repulsing the Prussian hero; *Te Deum* was sung in the Russian army; and General Fermor, in his dispatches to the Russian minister at the Hague, affirms, that the enemy abandoned the field of battle, and retired; and that he was only waiting for a junction between his and M. de Romanzow's division, to pursue, and entirely disperse them.

SUCH are often the contradictory accounts of rival powers; and while the passions of men are too much agitated by partiality to one party
or

or the other, it is impossible that they should develope the truth: but the future historian is not to be biassed by fallacious misrepresentations; he is able to judge of facts from their consequences; and, aided by this infallible criterion, we may safely pronounce, that though both armies spent the night near the field of battle, the Prussians enjoyed the full fruits of a compleat and a decisive victory. A vast train of artillery was taken; the military chest; and a number of prisoners, many of them officers of the first rank: while the retreat of the Russian army the next and succeeding days; their general's request for leave to bury the dead, which he addressed to Count Dohna; their incapacity to advance or form any new enterprize; the King of Prussia's unmolested operations against his other enemies; all combine to form a clear and certain demonstration of a victory in every sense of the word for which a victory is agreeable.

INDEED, nothing less than a compleat victory could have rendered any essential and permanent service to the Prussian affairs, at a time when four armies of his enemies were ad-

vancing to one common centre, and threatened to unite in the heart of Brandenburg.

So much elated was the Imperial court with some previous successes, and the storm which they knew was collected and ready to burst on the head of his Prussian majesty, that on the 21st of August a conclusion of the Aulic Council was issued against the King of Great Britain, as Elector of Hanover; against the Landgrave of Hesse-Cassel; against Prince Ferdinand of Brunswick; the Count of Lippe Buckebourg; and, in general, against all the adherents of the King of Prussia, threatening them with penalties in person, dignity, and estate. In consequence of this decree, letters avocatory were issued, notifying to the sovereign princes, that if they did not, within a limited time, disperse their armies, break off their connection with the King of Prussia, pay their quota of Roman months, and send their contingents to the army of execution, they were put under the ban of the empire. In fact, every length was taken, short of actually and formally executing this threat, which would certainly have taken place, if the scale had not turned in favour of Prussia.

HIS

HIS Prussian majesty renewed his attack on the Russians the morning of the 26th; and, as the experience of yesterday had convinced them there was no way of safety but in a retreat, they retired before the Prussians as far as Landsberg, on the frontiers of Poland.

THE King of Prussia was sagacious enough to perceive, that the late check he had given the Russians was sufficient to prevent them from attempting any thing material against his dominions on that side; and he evidently saw, that whatever he might hope to gain by improving his advantage against the Russians, he must lose far more by allowing the rest of his enemies to advance unmolested on the side of Saxony. He therefore contented himself with leaving a small body of troops, under Count Dohna, to observe the motions of the Muscovite army; and marched with the greatest part of his forces, and the utmost expedition, to the relief of Prince Henry.

No sooner was the king's absence known in Bohemia, than the army of Austrians, Saxons, and Imperialists, which dreaded every motion of his troops, hastened to surround the little
army

army under the command of his brother Henry, at Dippolswalde; and marched with full confidence of making themselves masters of Saxony, Silesia, and even of Brandenburg and Lusatia.

MARSHAL Daun undertook to oppose himself to Prince Henry; and, quitting his strong mountainous encampment, he led his army to Stölpen, east of the Elbe, with an intention of cutting off all communication with Dresden, and of favouring the operations of his party. General Laudohn was detached to pillage the circle of Colbus, and the neighbouring territories, which he performed with great licentiousness. The Duke of Deux Ponts, who commanded the army of the Empire, entered Saxony, and made himself master of Pirna, and of the strong fortress of Sornenstein, which, though defended by a strong garrison of 1400 men, unaccountably surrendered, after the resistance of no more than a single day; and even Dresden was supposed to be in such imminent danger, that Count Schmettau, the governor, found himself indispensably obliged to take every possible measure which might prevent a surprise.

NEVER

NEVER did a general make such long and flying marches, in so small a space of time; and never did a powerful enemy betray more symptoms of fear than his enemies at his return. His Prussian majesty reached Graffenheyn with twenty-four battalions, and a great body of cavalry, on the ninth of September, and Dresden on the eleventh. As his majesty advanced, the Austrians withdrew from the frontiers of Brandenburg; General Laudohn abandoned all the Lower Lusatia, and even the fortresses of Peitz; and Marshal Daun retired from the vicinity of Dresden, and fell back as far as Zittau. Thus the King of Prussia, in fifteen days, by his unparalleled spirit, diligence, and magnanimity, fought and defeated a superior body of his enemies, in one extremity of his dominions; and baffled, without fighting, another superior body in the other extremity.

THESE advantages, glorious as they were, were not the only ones which followed the battle of Custrin. The Swedes, who directed their motions by those of their Russian allies, hastened their operations when that army had advanced into Brandenburg. General Wedel was detached from Saxony to impede their progress;

gress; and the Prince of Bevern gave them some opposition. All this, however, had proved ineffectual, had not the news of the defeat of the Russians struck such a panic into the Swedes, that they returned with more expedition into their own country than they had advanced. These circumstances gave a favourable aspect to the Prussian affairs; nevertheless, the fortune of the war still hung in a very dubious scale. The enemy was still superior; the Swedes and Russians had still some footing in his dominions; and the Austrians and Imperialists were yet in Saxony; and, if the king's armies had it in their power to take strong situations, the enemy possessed similar advantages.

THE condition of things was certainly still extremely critical; for, though the motions the enemy made on the approach of his majesty were strong indications of terror, an oversight in the encampment of the Prussian army soon changed the scene, and inspired Count Daun with the resolution of surprizing their right flank.

THOUGH

THOUGH his Prussian majesty had formed a junction with his brother, without experiencing even the shadow of opposition, he was not yet in a condition to dislodge the Imperialists from the strong camp at Pirna; nor to attack Marshal Daun, still more strongly encamped at Stolpen, with bridges of communication thrown over the Elbe. He indulged no other hope than that of being able so to place himself as to intercept their provisions. With this intention he marched to Bautzen, in which station he could communicate with Prince Henry's army, cover Brandenburg, and succour Silesia; which obliged the Austrian general to retreat to Zittau, and afterwards to Rittlitz, in hopes of meeting with some favourable opportunity of attacking the Prussians to advantage, or of preventing the king from succouring Silesia, where the siege of Neiss had commenced.

As Marshal Daun retired, his Prussian majesty advanced, with the similar hope of being able to force him to a battle, or to penetrate into Silesia. The whole army advanced, after General Retzou, who had been previously dispatched to take possession of Weissenburg, had effected his purpose; and, dislodging the Aus-

trians from the village of Hochkirchen, encamped in it's vicinity: but, neglecting to take possession of the heights which commanded that village, the oversight was readily improved by Daun, who discovered, that by this way it was possible to penetrate through the flank of the enemy; an atchievement which would certainly disconcert, and in all probability ruin, the whole Prussian army.

THE crafty Daun seized the opportunity, and concerted measures with the Imperial general for carrying his design into execution: he employed the flower of his army in this important service, and pitched on a very dark night for the enterprize. The night of the 13th of October favoured his design: it was not only extremely dark, but also very foggy. The troops moved in three columns, with great secrecy and order; and, having gained the heights, poured down on the village of Hochkirchen, cut to pieces a few companies posted there, and speedily gained possession of that advantageous post.

So sudden and unexpected was the shock, that the Prussians had not time to strike their
tents

tents before the enemy were resolutely forcing their way into the middle of the camp. The different columns of the Austrians, employed in this service, were so well conducted, that they arrived at their respective stations without confusion, and without discovery. The Prussians flew to their arms half naked, and devoid of order. The action commenced at four in the morning, and was continued some time before his majesty was sufficiently apprized of the event. However, his general officers, in the quarter where the attack began, made a resolute stand; and, without regarding the usual military etiquette, arranged, and led on, whatever troops were ready in arms.

AT the commencement of this encounter, the brave Field Marshal Keith lost his life by two musket-shot; and Prince Francis of Brunswick had his head carried off by a cannon-ball, as he was mounting his horse.

THE catastrophe of two such illustrious commanders, at a time when their skill and address were more required than ever, increased the danger, as well as the difficulties of the battle. The whole conduct of the affair now

devolved on the king; and an inferior warrior would have given up all for lost.

BUT his Prussian majesty, amid surrounding carnage, exerted all his personal activity, recollection, and address. He made the best possible dispositions in such an emergency; and opposed the efforts of the enemy better than could have been expected in a night of darkness and confusion. He hastened from one place to another: he animated the troops with the greatest presence of mind; and, by exposing his person to the same dangers which he adjured them to face, gained a triumph over the hearts of his men, more glorious than his enemy could expect.

COUNT Daun had undertaken the grand attack of the Prussian right wing, where the king commanded in person; and had concerted his measures so effectually, as not only to surprize it, but to deprive it of all means of reinforcement. When his Prussian majesty, therefore, grew diffident of his own strength, and found himself hard pressed, he was disappointed in his hopes of assistance from his left wing,
which

which the Austrians, at that instant, vigorously attacked. However, even this would not have been sufficient to oblige him to retreat, had the attack on the village of Hochkirchen failed: the possession of this post terminated the fate of the day; and there the dispute was the warmest. Marshal Daun had charged General Laudohn with that part of the duty; and, as has been previously stated, the defenders were soon cut to pieces.

SENSIBLE of the importance of this village, the Prussians attacked the Austrians with the utmost fury; but they were repulsed, in three different onsets, with equal bravery on both sides: yet a fourth assault carried the post, after a most obstinate and sanguinary dispute. The success of Count Daun's scheme chiefly depending on the possession of this village, he was resolved to make every possible effort to regain it; and, by reiterated attacks with fresh troops continually pouring down upon it, he expelled the Prussians at last, with the loss of a great number of men on his own side.

THE gallant Frederick being thus deprived of his best officers; deprived of any assistance
from

from his left; driven out of his most important post; having experienced a considerable loss, both in officers and men; and despairing of victory; came to the tardy resolution of retreating about nine o'clock in the morning: and though the soldiers, during this attack, had never been properly drawn up in order, and were embarrassed by their tents, the retreat was performed in good order, under the cover of a terrible fire from the Prussian artillery, which on that occasion was placed in the centre of his van.

IN whatever point of view this action is considered, it reflects rays of glory on his Prussian majesty. Never was a general attacked to more disadvantage; and never was the ability of a consummate warrior more eminently displayed. Neither intimidated by the sudden alarm, nor broken by the loss of his bravest and dearest officers, he discovered a fortitude in supporting calamity which was never excelled; and, for personal intrepidity, he had no new laurels to gain.

THE right wing of the Prussian army fell back to Weissenburg; the left remained at Bautzem;

Bautzem; and the king fixed his head-quarters at Dobereschutz, from whence he dispatched letters to all his ministers at foreign courts, conceived in the following manly and undisguised stile.

‘ HAVING acquainted you, by the last post,
‘ with the first circumstances of the action on
‘ the 14th, I now send the annexed relation of
‘ that affair, which you may boldly publish in
‘ the place where you are, as an authentic
‘ piece, written according to the most exact
‘ truth; in which I own my loss, which is not
‘ great, without having recourse to such fal-
‘ sities as the courts of Vienna and Petersburg
‘ usually spread on such occasions. You see
‘ also, by this detail, that it was not a battle,
‘ but an attack of posts only; by which the
‘ Austrians gained no other advantage, than
‘ that of dislodging my troops from an emi-
‘ nence, without daring to follow me, and
‘ without being able to force me to retire
‘ above half a league; where I keep my ground,
‘ and wait for them, ready to begin a second
‘ engagement, as soon as the opportunity offers.
‘ It is certain, that the loss of the enemy is
‘ much greater than mine; a circumstance, of
‘ which

‘ which you will not fail to avail yourself,
‘ that the Austrians may not impose on the
‘ public by false and exaggerated relations.’

FROM this representation, we may infer, that his Prussian majesty was not a very considerable loser in men; but the fate of his favourite General Keith most sensibly affected him. This was an irreparable misfortune; as in him he found united the most consummate skill, with the greatest personal bravery.

WE have already mentioned his country and family, and the reason of his entering into foreign service is sufficiently obvious. On being obliged to relinquish his native country, he entered into the army of Spain; and afterwards passing into Russia, he obtained a considerable command, and performed many signal services in their wars with Turkey and Sweden; and in peace he was employed on several embassies. But finding the honours of that country little better than a splendid servitude, and not meeting with those rewards which his conscious merit deserved, he forsook that court, and was received by the King of Prussia, in whose cause he fought from the commencement

ment of the war, and fell at last in a cause that was worthy of his abilities.

EXCEPT the loss of Keith, his Prussian majesty had received little damage that could not speedily be repaired. Accordingly, we see him waiting for the enemy at about half a league distance from the field of action, and daring the Austrians to return their charge.

BUT the cautious Daun resumed his former scheme of acting on the defensive. Even under the most favourable circumstances attending the last attack, he found his success had cost him very dear; and having missed his aim, where he fought with every advantage on his side, he dared not risk a battle on equal terms with a general and an army rendered more vigilant and resolute by the check they had received, and eager to wipe off the imputed disgrace of suffering themselves to be surprized.

DAUN having strongly entrenched himself, to secure his army from an attack by those whom he vainly represented as a vanquished enemy, his Prussian majesty finding it impossible to draw the Austrians to a battle, and

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perceiving also the necessity of his immediate assistance, both in Saxony, to counteract the united force of the Austrians and Imperialists; and in Silesia, already over-run by the Austrians, and upon the eve of forcing Neifs to a surrender; determined, in this dilemma, not to watch the uncertain motions of Marshal Daun, nor to prefer his covering of Saxony to his more important interest in Silesia, he dispatched a large detachment, under Prince Henry, from Saxony, to enable him to raise the siege of Neifs; and, on the 24th of October, broke up his own camp, and advanced to Gorlitz.

HOWEVER, this was not effected without a discovery on the part of Daun. Gorlitz was a post which either party would find it advantageous to possess: the Austrian general, therefore, made a push to secure it before the Prussians; but met with a check at Landsron. Here a skirmish ensued with the Prussian vanguard. The Austrians were worsted, and lost 800 men. General Laudohn was detached with 24,000 men to follow the Prussians, but without effect. The road was entirely open from Gorlitz into Silesia; and his Prussian majesty pursued his march, without any material interruption,

interruption, to Nossen, in the vicinity of Neiss; where he arrived with his whole army on the 6th of November.

THE siege of Neiss had commenced on the 4th of August, and was prosecuted with the utmost vigour, by the Generals Harsch and De Ville, from the 3d of October. The garrison made a brave and a resolute defence, determined not to surrender without his majesty's special order; who, to their inexpressible joy, arrived to their relief on the 7th of November.

THE Austrian general immediately raised the siege, and repassed the Neiss with a considerable loss of men, ammunition, and stores. A detachment of the enemy, who had for some time blockaded Cosel, received the panic; and, uniting with the besiegers from Neiss, precipitately retreated into Austria, Silesia, and Bohemia.

FRUSTRATED in his chief object of preventing the King of Prussia from relieving Neiss, Marshal Daun began to consider what advantage he might take of his majesty's absence, and the great distance of his army.

HE soon formed the scheme of reducing Dresden, Leipfick, and Torgau, which would give him almost entire possession of Saxony. For this purpose, he undertook Dresden with the main body of his own army; he entrusted the reduction of Leipfick to the Prince of Deux Ponts; and Torgau to a detachment under General Haddick; evidently presuming that Prince Henry was not left with a sufficient force to maintain his position.

EAGER to accomplish this favourite plan of operations, and being freed from the dread of any enemy who could obstruct his march, Count Daun passed the Elbe at Pirna on the 6th of November with 60,000 men; and flattered himself that such a formidable appearance would intimidate Dresden to an immediate surrender. The Imperial army had cut off Prince Henry's communication with Leipfick, and had even invested it; while General Haddick proceeded to Torgau with all possible expedition.

REDUCED to these difficulties, Prince Henry determined to throw himself into the city of Dresden; a resolution which he effected; but
soon

soon after retired to the other side of the Elbe, leaving General Schmettau, with no more than 12,000 men, to defend a city of great extent, and indifferent fortifications.

THE very day, that his Prussian majesty raised the siege of Neiss, the Austrian general convinced the governor of Dresden that his design was against that capital, and drove him to the dreadful necessity of replacing the combustibles in the houses of the suburbs, which had been removed on Daun's retreat from that place the preceding July.

THE expediency of this terrible resolution of burning the suburbs is conspicuous, from a consideration of their weakness. Count Schmettau was sensible it would be impossible to defend them; and if they should fall into the hands of the enemy, the vast height of the houses would entirely command the ramparts, and render the possession of Dresden equally easy and inevitable. Yet this conflagration of the suburbs was certainly a deplorable expedient. They were equal to one of the finest cities in Europe; and infinitely superior to Dresden within the walls, both on account of their
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state-buildings, the number of their inhabitants, and their valuable manufactories.

COUNT Daun foresaw the consequence of his intended attack: he endeavoured to intimidate the governor from the measure, to which he was aware the cruel art of war would naturally induce him, by threatening to make him personally responsible for the steps he should take; but Count Schmettau, with a firmness characteristic of military enthusiasm, replied, that he had the honour of being known to the Marshal; that he had orders to defend the town to the last man; that his Excellency was too well acquainted with war, to be ignorant that the destruction of the suburbs, which the Marshal had attacked, was according to rule; that if he attacked the town, the governor would defend himself from house to house, and from street to street, with the infantry of the whole army; and then, if driven to the last extremity, he would make his last effort in the royal palace, rather than abandon the city contrary to the command of his royal master.

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WHEN the magistrates were apprized of this resolution, they fell at the feet of Count Schmettau, and implored him to change his mind, and to spare that devoted part of their city. The branches of the royal family, who remained in Dresden, united their supplications to those of the magistrates; they deprecated him to save that last refuge of distressed royalty, and to allow, at least, a secure residence to those who had been deprived of every privilege.

THEIR prayers and entreaties were ineffectual: the governor told them that their safety depended on themselves and on Count Daun; that, if he made no attempts, the suburbs would still be secure; but that, if he took any farther steps, the necessity of his master's service, and his own honour, would compel him to do violence to the native mildness of his disposition. The magistrates retired in silent despair; and combustibles were immediately placed in every house.

IN the meanwhile, the Austrian vanguard attacked the advanced posts, and forced the hussars and Monjou's independent battalion to quit

quit the great garden, and retire into the suburbs. They then attacked the small redoubts, forced three of them, and penetrated to Zinzendorff-house and the drawbridge of the Pirna gate; and, during this attack, the enemy's cannon played into the city. Nevertheless, the governor refrained from extremities. Though this was an open attack on both town and suburbs, no house was yet set on fire. The cannon upon the ramparts drove the Austrians back; and before night they were obliged to quit the redoubts. The same time, the army under General Izenplitz marched through the city, passed the Elbe, and encamped under the cannon of the New Town. General Meyer was charged with the defence of the suburbs, with positive orders to set them on fire, after giving due intimation to the inhabitants, should he find it incumbent on him to proceed to that extremity.

THE enemy's preparations for an assault being reported to the governor by those who were sent beyond the batteries to reconnoitre, and he being fully convinced that his strength was inadequate to the prevention of the Austrians from making themselves masters of the suburbs,

urbs, General Meyer was permitted to give the signal at three o'clock in the morning of the 10th of November; when the greatest part of the suburbs of Pirna, the houses adjoining to the ditch, and several others, were instantly in flames.

A CALAMITY so dreadful little requires the colouring of language to give it full effect. However, it is certain, from the most authentic documents, that the mischief occasioned by this combustion was as inconsiderable as the nature of the case would admit: few lost their lives, but many their entire substance. When this service was accomplished, the Prussian troops abandoned the flaming suburbs, and retired to the city in perfect order.

MARSHAL Daun pretended to be greatly surprized at the sight of these flames, and sent Colonel Savoisky to Count Schmettau, to enquire whether it was by order that the suburbs were burnt in a royal residence, which, he said, was a thing unheard of among Christians: and that he hoped the city of Dresden would not be treated in a similar manner.

To this requisition a spirited reply was made; and between the generals the correspondence ceased. But the Saxon minister at Ratisbon made grievous complaints to the Diet of what he represented as the most unparalleled acts of wanton and unprovoked cruelty that had ever disgraced the annals of war. The emissaries of the court of Vienna diffused the same complaints; and as they did not hesitate to alter, enlarge, and invert, as suited the object they had in view, they found means to excite the greatest commiseration towards the sufferers, and the utmost indignation against the King of Prussia.

AMONG other equally unauthenticated, and even groundless assertions, it was represented, that by the violence of the flames, which were kept up by red-hot balls fired into the houses and along the streets, the whole was instantly on fire; that a shoemaker, in endeavouring to save his infant on a pillow from burning in the flames, was stopped by a volunteer, who snatched the babe from him, and threw it into the flames; that a man, having got his moveables loaded in a waggon, had them stopped by a Prussian soldier, who covered the waggon with pitch,

pitch, and set it on fire; that a multitude of people of all ages, inhabitants of those populous suburbs, perished amid the flames; that in the single inn, called the Golden Hart, ninety perished; that the Austrians beheld these terrible acts with indignation and rage; that they sent 500 carpenters into the suburbs, to endeavour to extinguish the flames; and that, melting with compassion, their general tried every method to prevent them.

SUCH were the infamous methods made use of by his enemies to stir up an animosity, and kindle the flame of indignation against his Prussian majesty. But these calumnies were abundantly confuted in a very short time by the authentic certificates of the magistrates of Dresden, and of those officers of the court who were perfectly acquainted with every transaction. By these certificates it appears, that only two hundred and fifty houses were consumed; that the people were not surprized, but had sufficient notice of the governor's intentions to enable them to provide for their safety; and, in short, all the charges of cruelty against the Prussian commander and soldiery were fully overthrown.

THIS conflagration made a coup de main impossible; regular operations demanded time, and the King of Prussia was now in full march towards Saxony. Count Daun therefore raised the siege on the 17th, three days before the king could reach Dresden; and retired, with the army of the Empire, into Bohemia.

LET us now advert to the fate of Leipfick and Torgau. Count Dohna was ordered to march with 12,000 men to the relief of the latter. The same orders were sent to General Wedel, who, with a small army, observed the motions of the invaders; and who, being nearest to the place, threw himself into Torgau, before Haddick arrived there, and repulsed him with loss on making his first attack. Count Dohna arriving soon after, they united their forces, and pursued the Austrians as far as Eulenburg. The fate of Haddick, and the approach of the Prussians, struck such a terror into the Prince of Deux Ponts, who directed the siege of Leipfick, that he drew off his army, and abandoned his design.

THE Austrian designs had now been completely frustrated: no one advantage was gained;

gained; and it was too late in the season to think of any more attempts.

THE Marshal, in taking winter quarters, disposed his forces so as to form a chain of amazing length, from the frontiers of Moravia passing through Bohemia, all along the skirts of Silesia and the borders of Saxony. There the Imperial army joined this chain, and continued it through Thuringia and Franconia, where it was connected with the quarters of the Prince de Soubise. These troops had fallen back from Hesse Cassel, finding themselves unable to maintain their ground on the Landgraviate. The Prince de Soubise's cantonments extended westward along the course of the Maine and Lahn, to meet those of the Marshal de Contades, which stretched to the Rhine, and continued the chain beyond it quite to the Maese, so as to command the whole course of the Rhine, both upwards and downwards.

HAVING attended the progress of the Austrians through the campaign of 1758, it will be proper to give a brief account of the operations of the Swedes and Russians, who were equally inimical to the King of Prussia; and,
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though less active and courageous, were more cruel and vindictive.

THE Swedes, who, at the commencement of this year, seemed averse to the war, were instigated to action by the absence of the Prussian troops, and obliged to undertake more important services than to watch such dastardly enemies. Count Hamilton, who commanded their army, having no force to oppose him, when Dohna had drawn off his troops to watch the motions of the Russians, and being reinforced with a considerable number of men, took the field, dislodged the few Prussians left in the frontier town, recovered Swedish Pomerania, entered the Prussian territories, and advanced within twenty-five miles of Berlin, threatening that capital with plunder and devastation.

THIS invasion was marked with such traits of inhumanity and cruelty, as incline us to suppose that the confederacy against the Prussians strove to outvie each other in barbarism. The Swedes, who in former wars had ever maintained the reputation of brave and generous foes, debased their martial spirit with an
unmilitary

unmilitary meanness, and sullied their national glory. Though their strength exceeded that of their present opponents at least four to one, they contented themselves with pillaging, pilfering, and extorting contributions. Except in firing houses, they surpassed all their confederates in this mode of making war; and, wherever they came, they were more dreaded than Cossacks and Calmucks. In a great many villages they not only carried off the produce of the earth, the cattle, and the horses; but they even trampled down and destroyed the seed in the ground.

To repulse these cruel and dastardly invaders, General Wedel was detached from Saxony with a body of troops. Wedel arrived at Berlin, with 11,000 effective men, on the 20th of September. General Hamilton immediately retreated at the approach of the Prussians, leaving a garrison of 1400 men in Fehrbellin, to impede the Russian army in pursuit of his main body, and with orders to defend the place to the very last extremity. Accordingly, they endured a severe cannonade, by which every house in the town was damaged, and then they disputed the ground from house to house.

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But the valour of the Prussian grenadiers prevailed; and the Swedes were at last driven out with considerable loss.

DURING this action the Prince of Bevern pursued the Swedish army with a detachment, harraſſed their rear, and gained ſeveral advantages over them. This freed Berlin from the apprehenſions of an attack; and the Swedes were glad to ſeek for ſhelter under their own cannon at Stralfund, where they entered into winter quarters. Hamilton, their general, immediately threw up his command; he deteſted the ſervice in which he was employed; and, like a man of true honour, deſpiſed the emoluments of office, where the ſervice required was derogatory to his own reputation, and uſeleſs to his employers.

THE Ruſſian General Fermor, after his defeat at Cuſtrin, being ſenſible that he could not maintain his ground in Pomerania during the winter, unleſs he could poſſeſs himſelf of a ſea-port in that province, and thereby open a communication with Ruſſia by ſea; turned his views towards Colberg, a ſmall ſea-port on the Baltic, and but very indifferently fortified. To
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carry this, he dispatched 15,000 men; who arriving before Colberg on the 3d of October, opened the trenches in form; but with such small success, that after twenty-six days, Major Heydon, the governor, without any succours, or any reinforcement, obliged them to raise the siege. Thus being vanquished in open fight, and baffled in their attempts on an insignificant town which they wished to secure, the Russian army evacuated Pomerania, and took up their winter quarters beyond the Vistula.

LET us now review the operations of the campaign; a campaign which, for the variety of it's events, and the spirit and conduct of his Prussian majesty, remains almost an unique in history. In the commencement, we behold him with admiration invading Moravia, and investing Olmutz; and all his successes defeated by one single stroke.

OBLIGED to evacuate Moravia, he throws himself into Bohemia, and executes a retreat with all the spirit of an invasion. He marches upwards of a hundred miles in an enemy's country, followed and harrassed by

large armies, who feel themselves unable to obtain any advantage over him. Gaining at length his own territories, he engages the vast army of the Russians, and gives it a signal defeat. He is unable to follow his blow; but he disables them from offering any violence to that part of his dominions which he is obliged to leave. While engaged with the Russians on the frontiers of Poland, the Austrians and Imperialists enter Saxony. Before they can achieve any thing decisive, the king himself suddenly arrives in Saxony; and, by his presence, at once disconcerts all their projects.

THE scene is again changed: they surprize him in his camp at Hochkirchen; two of his best generals are killed; his army is defeated; and his camp is taken. They attack Silesia with a powerful army.

NOTWITHSTANDING his late defeat; notwithstanding the vast superiority of his enemies; notwithstanding the advantage of their posts; he makes a most amazing sweep round all their forces; eludes their vigilance; renders their positions ineffectual; and, marching with astonishing rapidity into the remotest parts

parts of Silesia, obliges the Austrian armies to retire with precipitation out of that province. Then he flies to the relief of Saxony, which his enemies, taking advantage of his absence, had found means to invade; and again, by the same rapid and well-conducted march, he obliges them to abandon their prize. Defeated by the Austrians, he acquired by his conduct all the advantages of the most compleat victory. He guarded all his possessions in such a manner, as to enable each of them to endure his absence for a short period; and he conducted his marches with such spirit, as did not render it necessary for them to hold out any longer: he twice made the circuit of his dominions; and, in their turns, he relieved them all.

NEAR the end of the campaign, six important sieges were raised, at Colberg, at Neifs, at Cosel, at Dresden, at Torgau, and Leipfick, by his Prussian majesty or his generals; nor could he justly be said to have lost one inch of ground this season, though attacked on all sides by so many formidable enemies.

AFTER this deserved panegyric, impartiality obliges us to notice a trait in his Prussian majesty's character, which, as his admirers, we could have wished had never been observed. When he had a second time driven the Austrians and Imperialists out of Saxony, he resolved to keep no measures with that wretched country. He declared, that he was resolved no longer to consider it as a deposit, but as a country which he had twice subdued by his arms. He therefore ordered those of the King of Poland's privy-council, who still remained at Dresden, to retire at a very limited warning. But if the King of Prussia had a right, as it seems probable he had, to consider Saxony as a legal conquest, the measures he took indisputably proved, that he did not regard the natives as subjects, when he continued to exact the most severe contributions: and by a mode derogatory to the dignity of a great prince; for he surrounded the Exchange with soldiers, and confining the merchants in narrow lodgings, on straw beds, he obliged them, by extreme suffering, to draw bills on their foreign correspondents for very large sums.

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WHAT rendered this impolitic as well as inhuman was, that the city had been quite exhausted by former payments, and had not long before suffered military execution.

HAD an enemy acted in this manner, it certainly would have been deemed severe; but when a country is entirely possessed by any power, either legal or usurped, and claimed as a conquest, the rights of war seem to cease; and the people may reasonably expect to be governed in such a manner as becomes a wise and a just prince; especially, when no extreme necessity in his affairs compels him to adopt rigorous, and otherwise unjustifiable courses. To retaliate on the miserable Saxons some part of the cruelties committed by the Russians on his dominions, is a species of left-handed policy and mean revenge, that we are surprized and sorry to find in the character of Frederick III. but for which we will not attempt to apologize.

AFTER this censure, which we reluctantly pass on the Prussian hero, and before we enter on the campaign of 1759, it may not be improper nor unpleasing to subjoin his character,
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as drawn by the masterly pen of Montesquieu, a few years antecedent to the period we are now describing. A portrait of this mighty sovereign, at different ages, cannot fail to be acceptable; and, from the subsequent one, we may discover, that length of years did not efface the original lineaments of his character, or diminish it's inherent lustre.

‘ THE most faithful and scrupulous historian,’ says this elegant writer, ‘ would be the best panegyrist of Frederick King of Prussia. I pretend to be neither; I only attempt the outlines of his character, which even contemporary jealousy, envy, and malignity, are forced to admire; and which more impartial posterity, if it can believe, will almost adore.

‘ BY the mere natural strength and superiority of his genius, without experience, he broke out at once a general and a hero. He distinguished with precision, what inferior minds never discover at all, the difference between great difficulties and impossibilities; and, being never discouraged by the former, has often, in appearance, executed the latter.

‘ INDEFATIGABLY laborious and active,
‘ and coolly intrepid in action, he discerns as by
‘ intuition, seizes with rapidity, and improves
‘ with skill, the short, favourable, and often
‘ decisive moments of battle. Modest and mag-
‘ nanimous after victory, he becomes the gene-
‘ rous protector of his subdued and captive
‘ enemies. Resolute and unbroken by misfor-
‘ tune, he has risen superior to distresses, and
‘ struggled with difficulties which no courage
‘ nor constancy but his own would have re-
‘ sisted, nor could have surmounted.

‘ BUT as he cannot always command the suc-
‘ cess which he invariably deserves, he may
‘ perhaps be obliged to yield at last to the su-
‘ perior numbers of almost all Europe com-
‘ bined against him: *their* legions may per-
‘ haps conquer, but *his* virtues must triumph.

‘ As a king, he is a man, a citizen, a legis-
‘ lator, and a patriot. His own extensive
‘ mind forms all his plans of government, un-
‘ debased by selfish ministerial interests and mis-
‘ representations. Justice and humanity are
‘ the only ministers he listens to.

‘ IN

‘ IN his own dominions, he has reformed
‘ the law, and reduced it to equity, by a code
‘ of his own digesting. He has thrown cavil
‘ out of the shifting and wavering scales of
‘ justice, and poised them equally to all.

‘ INDULGENT to the various errors of the
‘ human mind, because tainted with so few
‘ himself, he has established universal tolera-
‘ tion; that decisive characteristic of true reli-
‘ gion, natural justice, social benevolence, and
‘ even good policy. He equally abhors the
‘ guilt of making martyrs, and the folly of
‘ making hypocrites.

‘ INFINITELY above all narrow local pre-
‘ judices, he has invited and engaged, by a ge-
‘ neral indiscriminating naturalization, people
‘ of all nations to settle in his dominions. He
‘ encourages and rewards the industrious; he
‘ cherishes and honours the learned; and *man*,
‘ as *man*, wherever oppressed by civil, or per-
‘ secuted by ecclesiastical tyranny, finds a sure
‘ refuge in his sentiments of justice and huma-
‘ nity, which the purple robe has not been able
‘ to smother.

‘ A PHILOSOPHER, undazzled with the
‘ splendor of the heroic parts of this character,
‘ may perhaps enquire after the milder and
‘ social virtues of humanity, and seek for the
‘ man. He will find both the man and the
‘ philosopher in Frederick, unallayed by the
‘ king, and unsullied by the warrior.

‘ A PATRON of all liberal arts and sciences,
‘ and a model of most. In a more particular
‘ manner cultivating the belles lettres. His
‘ early and first attempt was a refutation of the
‘ impious system of Machiavel, that celebrated
‘ professor of political iniquity; nobly con-
‘ scious that he might venture to give the
‘ world that public pledge of his future virtue.

‘ His Memoirs, intended to serve only as
‘ materials for a future history of the house of
‘ Brandenburg, are such as must necessarily de-
‘ feat his own purpose, unless he too will write
‘ the history himself. There are also spe-
‘ cimens enough of his poetical genius, to
‘ shew what he might be as a poet, were he not
‘ something greater and better.

‘ NEITHER the toils of war, nor the cares
‘ of government, engross his whole time; but
‘ he enjoys a considerable part of it in familiar
‘ and easy conversation with his equals, as men
‘ and scholars. There the king is unknown,
‘ and, what is more, *unfelt*. Merit is the only
‘ distinction, in which his unassisted, but con-
‘ fessed and dreaded superiority, flatters a mind
‘ formed like his, much more delicately than
‘ the always casual, and often undeserved, su-
‘ periority of rank and birth.

‘ BUT, not to swell an essay towards a cha-
‘ racter to the bulk of a finished character,
‘ still less that of a history, I shall conclude
‘ this sketch with the subsequent observa-
‘ tion—that many a private man might make
‘ a great king; but where is the king who
‘ could make a great private man, except FRE-
‘ DERICK !’

AT the opening of the campaign of 1759,
the fortune of the several powers at war seem-
ed more equally balanced than at any period
since the commencement of the war. Not-
withstanding the brilliant exploits of his Prus-
sian

lian majesty the last year, he had too many enemies to combat with to hope for advantage: it was great, it was glorious, to maintain his ground. Nevertheless, his resources were still astonishing; and he was still able to prove himself the father and benefactor, as well as protector of his people. In the midst of the devouring waste of such an expensive war, from the funds of his former œconomy he was enabled to remit the taxes to those parts of his dominions which had suffered from the Russian barbarity: he even advanced money to the most unfortunate and the most aggrieved.

BUT, to take a closer view of his situation, we must observe, that the whole kingdom of Prussia still remained in the hands of the Russians. The dutchy of Cleves, together with his other possessions on the Rhine, could yield him nothing; they were still in the hands of the French. To balance these losses, the rich country of Saxony, which he had twice, in the last campaign, wrested from the Austrians, remained in his possession. Add to this the renewal of the subsidy treaty with Great Britain, on the advantageous conditions of the former year. These were unquestionably capital sup-

ports; and, on the whole, his majesty seemed as entire in power, and higher in reputation than ever.

By the most flagrant violation of the liberties of the Empire, Franckfort had been seized last year by the confederated enemies of his Britannic and Prussian majesty; and, as this post secured to them the navigation of the Maine and the Rhine, it was become an object of the highest importance to dislodge them.

To accomplish this, Prince Ferdinand, as early in the season as possible, at the head of 30,000 men, made his advances towards that quarter; but, though successful in several skirmishes, he met with sufficient obstructions to prevent him from reaching the vicinity of Franckfort till the 13th of April. In the mean time, M. Duc de Broglie being apprized of his motions; had taken possession of an advantageous post near Bergen, between Franckfort and Hannau, which the allies must force before they could penetrate to his line. This place he had made his right, and secured his
flanks

flanks and centre in such a manner, that the attack could only be made at that village.

PRINCE Ferdinand finding the enemy in this position, at his approach, without the least hesitation, formed his army under an eminence, and began the attack on the village of Bergen between nine and ten in the morning. The allies advanced with great intrepidity, and were received by a very severe fire from the enemy. In three different attacks, made in the space of two hours, they were uniformly repulsed; and the general now perceived that the post was likely to be vigorously maintained, and that his own troops began to fall into some disorder.

IN this dilemma he had recourse to stratagem for want of strength; he made such movements as strongly indicated a design of falling once more on the village, in the enemy's right; and of making, at the same time, a new attack on their left. These appearances were farther countenanced by a cannonade on both these posts, supported with uncommon ardour. The French, deceived by these *mæuvres*, kept close in their posts; they expected a fresh attack

tack every moment; they returned the cannonade as briskly as they could; and in this posture things continued till the approach of night, when the prince made an easy retreat, without disorder, and without molestation.

IN this action the allies lost about 2000 men, and the loss of the French was not less considerable: but they maintained the possession of Franckfort; and, of consequence, every hope of advantage arising from their dislodgment, both to the allies and to the King of Prussia, was entirely frustrated, and the plans which had been concerted for the prosecution of the campaign were totally deranged.

BUT it is time we should return to attend the motions of Frederick. The Austrian confederacy had threatened to surround and attack him with four hundred thousand men. To supply this vast armament, immense magazines of provisions, forage, and military stores of all sorts, were formed; particularly by the Russians, in Poland; on whose operations, in concert with Count Daun, it was apparent

parent the success of the campaign in a great measure depended.

To obstruct the progress of the Russians, was the primary object of his majesty's attention; and as his strength was insufficient to detach a proper force to watch their motions, and offer them battle, with any prospect of advantage, he schemed his measures to deprive them of the power of action. To effect this grand project, he saw no means so probable as destroying their magazines, without which they could not possibly advance. He therefore detached forty-six squadrons, and twenty-six battalions, under General Wobershow, from Glogau in Silesia, about the middle of February; who, entering Poland, destroyed several vast magazines belonging to the Russians, particularly that of Posna, which was guarded by 2000 Cossacks, and contained a liberal allowance of flour for 50,000 men at least three months.

THIS enterprize succeeding according to his majesty's wish, his next object was to disconcert the intended junction of the French, Austrians, and Imperialists; and then to attack
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the Austrians singly. His plan in part answered its design. By the assistance of General Knobloch he drove the Imperialists from several stations which they occupied, burning their magazines, and laying the country under heavy contributions.

INDEED, the troops of his Prussian majesty were every where in action. Five thousand, detached on the side of Mecklenburg, attacked Schwerin, one of the principal cities in that duchy; from whence they expelled a garrison of 2000 men, and laid the vicinity under contributions. From hence this corps penetrated into Swedish Pomerania, and forced the garrison in the town of Penamunde to surrender prisoners of war.

THE Swedes also claimed a share of his majesty's attention. The severity of the winter did not prevent him from pursuing their flying army. The army under General Mantouffell, in Pomerania, acted with the utmost spirit: several important towns surrendered to the Prussian arms on the first summons; and Demen and Anclam, which supported a short
siege,

siege, were added to the number of conquests in that quarter.

ONE more attempt remained unexecuted; and, if it was attended with success, his plan required no other advantage to place him in a condition of advancing against the main army of the Austrians. This was to intercept or straiten, as much as possible, the subsistence of Marshal Daun's army. With this extensive object in view, his majesty assembled his main army near Strigau; and entrenched himself at Bolchenhayn, near Landshut, in Silesia.

THIS masterly disposition at once covered Silesia, and cut off the subsistence of Marshal Daun's army on that side: it also enabled his brother Prince Henry to march out of Saxony into Bohemia, about the middle of April; and, by destroying the Austrian magazines in that kingdom, to render subsistence from thence also extremely difficult.

PRINCE Henry, in his march to Bohemia, divided his army into two columns: one marched by Peterswalde; and another, under General

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Hulsen,

Hulfen, by Pafsberg and Commota. The column which took the route of Peterfwalde, found the eminence beyond that village fortified with a redoubt, and defended by 600 Croats, and some Hungarian foot. This pass was forced; but the time requisite for removing the barricade, facilitated the retreat of the enemy, who had leisure to draw off the greater part of their troops. Nevertheless, the Prussian vanguard dividing into two bodies, the one advanced to Auffig, and the other to Toplitz, the enemy flying before them with the utmost precipitation. The magazine at Auffig was destroyed, and the boats on the Elbe were burnt.

GENERAL Hulfen, who marched by Pafsberg, found that place guarded by a body of Croats, and the regiment of Konigseg and Andlau. Success here too attended the Prussian arms. General Renard, with upwards of 50 officers and 2000 men, were taken, together with three pair of colours, two standards, and three pieces of cannon. Different detachments of the column under General Hulfen's command were equally successful in forcing posts, firing magazines, and securing passes.

AFTER

AFTER this expedition of meditated destruction, which filled Bohemia with terror and consternation, Prince Henry returned to refresh his troops near Dresden. But their repose was of short duration: in a few days they were again ordered to march in two columns; one took the route of Saalfeldt, the other of Hoff in Franconia; a motion concerted between the King of Prussia and Prince Ferdinand, to derange the plans of the Imperialists. For, about the same time that Prince Henry set off with 40,000 men, a detachment of 12,000 Hanoverians, under the Hereditary Prince of Brunswick, began to move towards the same quarter; and having formed a junction with the Prussians, their united force fell on the army of the Empire, in three different parts; and so effectually routed them, that the Prince de Deux Ponts, their commander, was obliged to solicit supplies from M. Duc de Broglie, the French general at Franckfort. This action happened on the 8th of April.

THE main body of the army of the Empire fled before the Prussian general to Cullembach, thence to Bamberg, and again to Nuremberg. In this pursuit, Prince Henry re-

duced Cronach, and the castle of Rottenberg. He then advanced as far as Bamberg, and that place surrendered on terms; but some misunderstanding happening between the surrenderers and the Prussians, which was construed as an infraction of the capitulation, a pretence was found for giving it up to pillage, which was executed for two days with the most unrelenting and licentious rigour: a circumstance which occasioned loud complaints against the Prussians all over Europe, and afterwards produced a severe retaliation.

By this expedition Prince Henry had pushed back the army of the Empire as far as Nuremberg; he had disabled a considerable part of the circle of Franconia from yielding them assistance; and so far he had accomplished the objects he proposed. But as that part of the plan which was left to the execution of Prince Ferdinand had failed, it was impossible, on the one hand, to prevent the French army from succouring that of the Empire; or, on the other, to prevent a body of Austrians from availing themselves of his absence to penetrate into Saxony. This, indeed, was effected under General Gemmingen; and Prince Henry

was

was recalled to oppose him. His army, loaded with booty and contributions, returned to their former situation, in spite of some opposition which they experienced near Hoff; and the Austrian general Gemmingen having gained the point he wished, in diverting the pursuit of the Prussians from the Imperial army, retired at their approach into Bohemia.

DURING these operations, Count Daun was strongly encamped, with the grand Austrian army, at Scharitz in Bohemia: his right extended to Braunau, and his left to Gabel. The King of Prussia remained at Landsbut; and a considerable body of Prussians, commanded by General Fouquet, were posted in the southern parts of Silesia.

THIS disposition kept the enemy in awe, and at short allowance for provisions and forage; while Frederick and Daun watched each other with the greatest attention, mutually solicitous to seize the critical moment which incident or oversight might produce. His Prussian majesty had done all that his circumstances would allow to distress his enemies, and to oblige them to act on the defensive; nor could they

they venture to attack him, with any probability of success, independent of their Russian allies. These had suffered greatly by the destruction of their magazines; but their assistance being so absolutely necessary to give effect to the Austrian schemes, the Empress Queen adopted every possible expedient to preserve the friendship of the Czarina, and to quicken her ardour for the prosecution of the war. The Czarina, equally anxious for his Prussian majesty's total ruin as her confederates, and exasperated by the recent losses she had experienced, exerted all her powers to repair the loss of her magazines, and dispatched Count Soltikoff to lead her numerous army into the Prussian dominions:

ACCORDINGLY, the Russian army made rapid marches towards the Vistula; and, on the 21st of April, they had finished two bridges across that river. The irregulars immediately appeared in the Prussian territories; and, with their usual barbarity, unmercifully ravaged the frontiers of Pomerania, Brandenburg, and Silesia. The main body of the Russian army followed about the middle of May, taking the
same

same route, and disgracing their cause with similar barbarities.

AT first his Prussian majesty was contented with detaching two parties, under Generals Manteuffel and Schlaberndorff, to watch their motions; but when certain intelligence reached him, that the whole Russian army was in full march to pass the Vistula, he ordered Count Dohna to repair into Bohemia, and to assume the chief command of the troops destined to oppose the invaders. With these that general encamped near Custrin; and being afterwards reinforced by several detachments under different commanders, he marched into Poland in quest of the enemy.

WHEN Count Dohna arrived at Menitz, in Poland, he published a manifesto, in the name of the king his master, setting forth the necessity he was under of entering the republic of Poland with a part of his armies, in order to protect their territories against the menaced invasion of the enemy; and declaring, that this step ought not to be construed as a breach of the respect he always entertained for that illustrious republic; nor ought it to lessen the
good

good understanding which had hitherto subsisted between them; but rather to invigorate it, by the expected proof of the same indulgence the enemy found from it, the ultimate wish he aspired to. He then demanded a supply of provisions, corn, and forage, sufficient for 40,000 men, with the utmost dispatch, on promise of prompt payment for the same; but, in case of a refusal or neglect, avowing the necessity he should be under of taking it by force.

AN attempt was likewise made by his Prussian majesty to draw recruits from Poland, and to engage some of the nobility in his cause. For, on the 22d of June, a proclamation was issued by Count Dohna, importing, that if any person had an inclination to enter into the King of Prussia's service, with an intention of behaving properly and faithfully, he might apply to the head-quarters, and be assured of a capitulation for three or four years: and that if any prince, or member of the Polish republic, were disposed to assemble a body of men, and join the Prussian army, and to make a common cause with it, he might depend on a gracious reception; at the same time, interdicting any person, under the severest penalties,

ties, from sheltering, concealing, or lodging any deserter from the Prussian colours; and promising a reward to any person that should deliver up a deserter at the first advanced post, or at the head-quarters. This caution was become extremely necessary, as appears from another manifesto, wherein it is declared, that it was with the utmost astonishment the king had heard that several of his own subjects had suffered themselves to be seduced so far from their allegiance, as to enter into the service of a potentate with whom he is actually at war; and that all his subjects serving in the enemy's armies, who shall be taken with arms in their hands, shall be sentenced to be hanged without mercy, as traitors to their king and country.

THESE manifestoes indicate, that the Prussian army began to suffer by frequent desertions, and that it was necessary the war should be vigorously prosecuted against the Russians; for the Swedish fleet having now united with theirs, commanded the whole coast of the Baltic, from whence recruits, ammunition, provision, and all sorts of warlike stores, might be easily conveyed to the Russian army; while the Prussian was in danger of being distressed

for want of provisions, and was daily becoming weaker.

BUT, however desirable it might be to bring matters with the Russians to a speedy crisis, Count Dohna was too diffident of his own strength to attack them. He advanced, indeed, within five miles of Pofna, where they were strongly encamped under General Soltikoff; but he could not be prevailed on to offer them battle in their entrenchments. He therefore contented himself with trying every method of harrassing them: he watched their motions, and cut off their convoys; but, at last, he began to feel a scarcity of subsistence for his own army, and was compelled to fall back to the Oder for a fresh supply. All his efforts were in vain to check the progress of the enemy towards Silesia: they marched and encamped between Langemeil and Schmellau, in Silesia, by the time the Prussian general had reached Zullichau, near Crossen.

HIS Prussian majesty was extremely disgusted with the conduct of Count Dohna: he placed the fullest confidence in the courage of his troops, and the skill of his commanders;
and,

and, at the same time, entertained the most contemptible opinion of his enemies. He therefore superseded the cautious but brave Count Dohna, and appointed General Wedel to the chief command, with positive orders to attack the Russian army, consisting of 70,000 men, though the entire force of the Prussians did not exceed 30,000.

GENERAL Wedel arrived at the army on the 22d of July; and immediately, in person, reconnoitred the position of the enemy's camp, which was still at Langemeil. Next morning he perceived, by their motions, that they were about to quit their entrenchments, and to draw nearer the Oder; a measure which afterwards appeared was concerted in favour of Marshal Daun's motions against the king. An opportunity now presented itself of coming to action, which the Prussian general could not possibly neglect, consistent with his orders: he filed off with all possible diligence, to dispute the passage of the river; marching his army in two columns, one of which proceeded by Kay, the other by Moze.

AN engagement was now unavoidable. The vanguard of the column that took the route of Kay, and consisted of cavalry, had scarcely passed the defile at that place, before they fell in with the enemy's light troops, which they repulsed with great loss. In several skirmishes the Prussians were successful; but after having driven the enemy from several batteries, which the Russians had erected on the heights, to cover them as they advanced, were at last obliged to desist from the charge, in consequence of the disadvantageousness of the ground, and the briskness of the enemy's fire.

THE Russians and their confederates magnified this action infinitely beyond its real importance: for, when we reflect that they did not attempt to pursue General Wedel's army, but suffered him unmolested to pitch his camp within cannon-shot of their own, it is evident they had little reason to boast of the fortune of the day. And though the Prussians confess their loss amounted to 4000 men in killed, wounded, and prisoners, the loss of the Russians was unquestionably superior. The brave General Wopersnow was left among the dead;
and

and General Manteuffell was among the wounded.

THE Russians shewed little desire of renewing the battle, or of forcing the Prussian trenches; nevertheless, they endeavoured to improve the opportunity, when well assured that their opponents must be strongly reinforced before they could attempt another battle. In this interval Prince Soltikoff quitted his camp, and made himself master of Franckfort on the Oder, and of Crossen, without the least opposition.

HIS Prussian majesty having adopted various expedients to counteract the schemes of Marshal Daun, who evinced a desire of approaching the Russians, in order to facilitate their operations against Silesia, at last quitted his mountainous camp near Landshut, and marched by the way of Herchberg to Lahn. In this route his vanguard fell in with the Austrian sander General Laudohn, who had entered Silesia by the way of Grieffenberg, and obliged him to retreat with considerable loss.

VIGILANT

VIGILANT and attentive to the motions of the Russians, whose progress it was become indispensably necessary to oppose, his Prussian majesty resolved, after this repulse of Laudohn, by which Silesia was secured from any immediate attack, to wait at Geppersdorff the success of his arms under General Wedel. Marshal Daun encamped in his vicinity, and both armies remained for some time inactive.

THINGS were in this state when intelligence was received of General Wedel's repulse. His Prussian majesty immediately formed the resolution of marching in person to revenge the cause of his general, and to chastise the insolence of his foes. Marshal Daun penetrated into the king's design, and prepared to reinforce the Russians with a strong body of Austrian cavalry. The Prussian hero put himself at the head of 10,000 choice troops, leaving the remainder of his forces under the command of his brother Prince Henry, to watch the motions of Daun; while the Austrian general had already dispatched 12,000 foot, and 8000 horse, under the command of General Laudohn, to the reinforcement of the Russians.

THESE

THESE troops marched in two divisions, one through Silesia, and the other through Lusatia; and, it is probable, they would have speedily effected their junction, had not General Wedel posted himself at Plauen, opposite Crossen. By this manœuvre, his Prussian majesty was enabled to come up with General Haddick, at Somerfeldt, who retired at the approach of the Prussians, but not without considerable loss in his rear-guard. In various skirmishes, the Prussians gained a valuable booty, and made about 2000 men prisoners; nevertheless, his majesty found it impossible to prevent the Austrians from joining the Russians before he was in a condition to attack their main army.

GENERAL Wedel had retaken Crossen from the Russians; and here the king his master found him. They formed a junction of their forces on the 4th of August; but, as the Russian army was now 90,000 strong, it was judged expedient to defer the meditated attack till farther reinforcements should arrive; and the only resource his majesty had on this occasion, was to recal General Finck, who had been detached with 9000 men to cover Saxony. Finck joined

joined his majesty on the 8th, and a determination was instantly formed of marching in quest of the Russians, and of forcing them if possible to an engagement.

THE combined army of the Austrians and Russians were entrenched between Franckfort and Cunnerdorf in a very advantageous situation, and defended by a formidable train of artillery. The Prussians did not muster 50,000 men; but delaying the action would be giving the enemy licence to pillage and overrun the richest part of their country; it would be resigning Saxony a prey to the Imperialists, who had already taken advantage of its defenceless state; it would be exposing Berlin itself to the parties detached against that capital by Marshal Daun; and, in short, it would have been endangering the whole Prussian dominions. These momentous considerations left the king no alternative: a victory alone could serve him essentially; an engagement that might check the future progress of the Russians was indispensably necessary.

IN such a situation, caution might have led to despair; ordinary difficulties were to be totally

tally disregarded; and danger, imminent as it was, required to be braved. On the 11th, the Prussian army passed the Oder near Custrin, and formed in order of battle near Escher, pursuing it's march to Bischoffsee. General Finck was charged with the corps de reserve, with which he took post on the eminences between that place and Trettin.

THE next day, being the 12th, was decisive. The army began to march towards Repin at two in the morning; halted in a wood, and formed; then advanced towards the Russians. The vanguard possessed itself of an eminence opposite to the enemy's left, on which the king ordered several batteries to be erected, intending to make his grand effort on that quarter. However, his majesty could not finish the previous dispositions for an attack before eleven o'clock; when, unmasking his batteries, a terrible fire commenced on the centre of the Russian left, and upon it's right point, with evident success. The enemy was thrown into some confusion by the briskness of the cannonade; his majesty was vigilant to improve the advantage; he ordered some battalions, in columns, to fall on the left point, and the flank

of the left wing. The charge was made with such impetuosity, that the Russians were staggered, and seemed ready to yield. The Prussians made themselves masters of three batteries, on which 80 pieces of cannon were mounted; and, for upwards of six hours, the advantage was so manifestly on the side of the Prussians, that the enemy themselves began to despair of victory, and his majesty assured himself of success. He dispatched a messenger with this billet to the queen—

‘MADAM,

‘WE have drove the Russians from their
‘entrenchments, and have taken a vast artil-
‘lery. You may soon expect to hear of a glo-
‘rious victory.’

BUT Fortune on this occasion delighted in playing one of her uncertain games. She led him through impenetrable entrenchments; and enabled him to force one post after another, as far as Cunnerdorff: but here she deserted him, and left him the victim of his own temerity.

PRINCE Soltikoff, finding himself defeated in almost every quarter, resolved to make his
last

last effort in his left wing; which, though much shattered, was more entire than any other part of his army. He assembled the remains of his right wing; drew off the whole second line of the centre, and divided them into small corps, or large battalions, formed into oblong squares, to support the flank of his left wing. Then, under cover of an advantageous eminence, called the Jews Burial Ground, fortified with a strong redoubt, he drew up a great body of his troops, by way of a forlorn hope, supported by all the Austrian cavalry, which had not yet engaged.

THE Russian partizans bestow the most exaggerated encomiums on these motions and dispositions of their general. ‘These motions,’ say they, ‘were made with an order and regularity impracticable to any but bold and intrepid troops; and the King of Prussia had no idea of a manœuvre so cool and judicious, amid the horrors of an incessant fire.’

BUT thus far is true. The Russians were driven from their trenches; they fled before the Prussians; and they placed their last refuge from final destruction in a situation really im-

pregnable by an army fatigued with six hours violent and unremitted exertion, in an excessive hot day, and exposed to a vast train of artillery, while they were unable to bring up any competent proportion of theirs. Had the Prussian hero acquiesced in his present advantages, and maintained his ground, his enemies would have added the battle of Zorndorff to the number of their defeats. But, flushed with success, he could not be satisfied with less than a total overthrow of the Russians; and, in the fervor of heroism, forgot the danger attendant on a renewed attack.

A STEP so desperate was not adopted without the animated remonstrances of his generals: they wisely represented, that to attempt any thing farther, under such circumstances, would be to rush on destruction, and to forfeit those advantages and that glory which were already secured. This was not a moment when his majesty would listen to prudential restraints; their advice was ridiculed, as the effect of timidity; and his own opinion could not be moved.

It was resolved: the attack was made. The Austrian cavalry began the action with fresh strength, and repulsed the Prussian horse, which put the infantry into some disorder. All that the most consummate warrior could perform was done by the king to retrieve the affair: he thrice led on his troops to the charge; and thrice exposed his person to the most imminent danger. He had two horses killed under him; and several balls passed through his cloaths. But his heroism was in vain: his troops were spent; the post was inaccessible; and some of the enemy's cannon were brought within forty yards distance, and fired with cartouch.

At last, though reluctantly, perceiving that his men were exhausted, and that he had been deceived in his estimate of the enemy's strength and courage, he saw it necessary to draw off; and in this resolution he was favoured by the approach of night. That enabled him to occupy some heights, which admitted of an easy defence; and, by that means, he covered the retreat of his troops, who were obliged to resume the station they possessed previous to the commencement of the attack, and relinquish
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all the flattering advantages which the opening of the action had promised.

HIS majesty being now fatally convinced of his error, dispatched another courier to inform the queen that he had hazarded another attempt, in which he had the misfortune to fail; and requested she would remove from Berlin with the royal family, and send the archives to Potzdam. He also permitted the city to make the best terms it could with the enemy: for now there was not a doubt entertained, but the Russians would make the best of their way to plunder the capital of Brandenburg; and lay the Electorate under military execution.

THE King of Prussia never fought a more bloody battle; and never did his courage more eminently display itself. He lost almost 20,000 of his best troops, at a time when his situation was almost desperate, with his army unimpaired. The enemy's loss did not much exceed 10,000 before they gained the Jews Burying Ground; their future loss was inconsiderable; so that it was impossible the aggregate

gate diminution they suffered this day could exceed 12,000.

BUT it was not only in men that his Prussian majesty was the sufferer; the slaughter among his officers was prodigious; and he lost his artillery. General Putkammer lay dead on the field of battle; and scarcely one officer escaped without a wound. In this condition his majesty, next day, retreated over the Oder, collected his fugitives, and saw with joy and astonishment the inactivity of his enemy. He thence directed his march to Fustenwalde; a situation that liberated him from every particle of fear for the preservation of Berlin, as it enabled him to cover his capital from the incursions of the Russians, and preserved a communication for supplies of stores, ammunition, and artillery, from the royal magazines in that city. Here also he received a reinforcement of 5000 men under General Kleist; who, in consequence of this emergency, received letters of recal from his station in Pomerania.

WHEN the Russian general decamped, instead of taking the route of Brandenburg, he advanced farther into Silesia, with part of his
army,

army, joined that of Count Daun in Lusatia, and consulted with that general in what manner he might best improve the advantages he had acquired. The Imperialists had already over-run Saxony, and reduced Hall, Leipfick, Torgau, and Dresden; and it was resolved, that the Russians could not more effectually promote the cause in which they were engaged, than by besieging Great Glogau.

BUT the superior penetration of his Prussian majesty frustrated this design: he foresaw their intention, and detached General Wunck, with six thousand men, to check the progress of the Imperialists in Saxony; and encamped with the rest of his army in a position which enabled him to cover Glogau from surprize.

THUS Lusatia and the frontiers of Silesia were infested with four large armies at once, under the respective commands of the King of Prussia, Prince Henry, Count Daun, and Prince Soltikoff. Each was occupied in watching the motions of the other; while the detached parties of either army had several brisk skirmishes. Wunck retook Leipfick, joined General Finck at Eulenburg; and, in the route
towards;

towards Dresden, they deterred General Haddick from seizing an advantageous post near Roth-Schemberg, and repulsed him, though supported by the whole Imperial army, which he joined near Meissen, on the 21st of September. The Austrians and Imperialists attacked the two Prussian generals in their entrenchments at Corbitz; and endeavoured to dislodge them by a furious cannonade from morning to night: at last they retired with a considerable loss in killed and wounded, and 500 prisoners in the hands of the Prussians.

A SCHEME was formed by Prince Henry to surprize a considerable body of Austrians, under General Vehla, at Hoyerfwerda, about eleven German miles distant from his camp at Hornsdorff, near Gorlitz. This he executed with success on the 23d of October; 600 of the enemy being killed, and the general and 1200 men made prisoners.

THIS being atchieved, his highness formed a junction with the troops under Finck and Wunck, which obliged Marshal Daun to abandon his camp also, and to march with the greatest expedition to cover Dresden; which

city, it was generally imagined, the prince had formed the resolution of attempting.

ON this emergency Prince Soltikoff detached himself from the Austrians; and the siege of Glogau being found replete with insuperable difficulties, he repassed the Oder at Neusalze, and encamped at Franstadt.

AT this time the banks of the Oder were planted with three armies: the Russians had posted themselves at Franstadt; a body of the Austrians were at Schlichtingskeim; and the Prussians were encamped at Koben, under the king himself.

THESE positions prevented any communication between the king and Prince Henry; and the army of the former was almost encircled by Austrian detachments; but, by his usual vigilance and activity, he gained several advantages over his opponents. General Finck expelled them from Vogelsang; and, with six battalions, supported by a few cavalry, he crossed the Elbe, and joined a Prussian corps at Wittenberg, which had retired from the vicinity of the Austrians.

NOTHING

Nothing material happened in these quarters till the 29th of October, when the Duke d'Aremberg, with 16,000 Austrians, marched from Dammitch to occupy the eminences near Pretch. In this attempt he was attacked and defeated by General Wunck, who made 1200 men prisoners, among whom were General Gemmingen; carrying off, at the same time, a considerable quantity of baggage, and several cannon and tents.

This action enabled Prince Henry to move. On the 16th of November he took possession of a strong camp at Torgau, to prevent his communication with that city being cut off; and soon after he was joined by the king himself, and 20,000 men from Silesia.

To prevent the Austrians from retreating into Bohemia, had become a favourite project with the king. For this purpose nothing appeared more effectual than to gain the defiles of Maxen and Ottendorff. Accordingly, General Finck, with nineteen battalions and thirty-five squadrons, was deputed on this service; but, either in the plan or execution, a most fatal mistake was committed. On advice of this motion,

Daun indeed retired to Plauen; yet it seems to have been with an intention of getting the Prussians more into his power, by lulling their vigilance, and lessening their caution. Finck was scarcely encamped on the hill near the village of Maxen, before he felt himself attacked by the corps de reserve of Marshal Daun's army, which was posted near Dippoldswalda, under the command of Baron de Sincere.

THE baron marched his troops in four columns through the woods, and surrounded the Prussians, before they had the least intimation of their approach. However, the conduct of General Finck was displayed in an eminent degree; and, by the uncommon bravery of his troops, he was enabled to maintain his ground with great resolution, till they lost their redoubt, and were overpowered by numbers: and then they made their retreat good from one eminence to another, till by favour of the night they reached Falkenhayn.

BUT they were allowed a very short respite. At break of day the general found himself so environed by the dispositions of Count Daun, that an escape was impracticable; and no alternative

native was left but to surrender himself, eight other Prussian generals, and his whole detachment, prisoners of war; together with sixty-four pieces of cannon, fifty pair of colours, and twenty-five standards.

THIS severe stroke can only be ascribed to an oversight in his Prussian majesty; who, by neglecting to preserve a communication with Finck, was justly punished with the loss. But, on the 3d of December, he sustained another blow, which neither prudence could foresee, nor caution prevent: this was the loss of General Diercke, and three battalions, on the banks of the Elbe, near Meissen. The general had been stationed at that post; and, being recalled, was obliged to transport his troops in boats, the floating ice preventing the use of his pontoons. When all, except himself and his vanguard, were transported, a strong body of Austrians attacked him; and, after an obstinate defence, he was taken, with his whole army, amounting to between 3 and 4000 men.

BUT if the King of Prussia was culpable for not taking the proper steps to save General Finck's detachment, it was with astonishment
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that all Europe saw Marshal Daun indolently marching into Saxony, and occupying the strong camp of Pirna, after an action that deprived his Prussian majesty of 20,000 men, and essentially injured his future operations; instead of pursuing the blow, when appearances were more against his opponents than at any time during the present war; and when one vigorous effort might have reduced his Prussian majesty to the necessity of submitting to the terms of the victors, and terminated the disasters that had so long harassed Germany. But Frederick was formidable, even after a defeat: experience had shewn that he only gathered strength from opposition, and from overthrow; and Daun was fearful of provoking that courage which had so often been exerted to his confusion.

A LONG campaign terminating on the part of his Prussian majesty with these two unfortunate blows, he began to think of disposing of his troops in winter quarters, and of inventing expedients to regain his former consequence in the scale of military merit. The inactivity of his enemy, with a formidable army nearly 40,000 stronger than his own, was
extremely

extremely favourable to his views; but, having learned caution from recent disgrace, he took all possible measures to prevent a surprize, and therefore requested and obtained a reinforcement of 12,000 men from the allied army, under the Hereditary Prince of Brunswick: however, when he perceived Marshal Daun supinely fixed at Pirna, his majesty dismissed these auxiliaries, and suffered the shattered remains of his army to repose in winter-quarters, after the fruitless fatigues of a long, laborious, and bloody campaign.

FROM the commencement of the war to the present time, it is obvious to the most cursory observer, how much the King of Prussia was embarrassed by the operations of the Russians: and what he had to apprehend from that formidable enemy, the ensuing campaign, was apparent in the Czarina's behaviour towards his Britannic majesty; who, having held forth the most advantageous offers to prevail on her to relinquish her engagements with the Austrians, and enter into terms of amity with his Prussian majesty, could obtain no satisfactory answer from her court.

HOWEVER,

HOWEVER, from the declaration she ventured to make, it was clearly deducible how she intended to conduct the future operations of the war; and that it was her favourite object to distress and to ruin the King of Prussia. For Marshal Keith having some time before, by order of his court, endeavoured to explore the disposition of Russia, by intimating to her Czarish majesty, in a conference with her chancellor, that not only the king his master, but that likewise the King of Prussia, desired to renew with her Imperial majesty the good harmony that formerly subsisted; her Imperial majesty of Russia ordered the subsequent reply to be made—That she has always been, and ever will be, studious to live in harmony with all and every the European powers; that the whole world knew the repugnance with which her majesty entered on this war was equal to the spirit she had shewn in carrying it on, nor did she engage therein till after the strongest declarations proved ineffectual with the King of Prussia, and her allies were already attacked by that prince; that her majesty was truly and sensibly affected by the effusion of so much human blood, which cost her humanity very dear; but that peace, though so much desired,

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was still very remote, if the hopes that were placed in the pacific disposition of her majesty were it's only foundations; her majesty being firmly and religiously resolved to execute the solemn promises she had given to procure to the injured powers a just and adequate satisfaction; not to conclude any peace, but on honourable, safe, and advantageous conditions, in concert with her faithful allies; and, in fine, never to suffer that, for the sake of saving the effusion of innocent blood for a short period only, the repose of Europe should stand exposed to the same danger as before; but that, if satisfactory propositions for a peace should be offered, her Imperial majesty was ready to accede to whatever her allies, in conjunction with her, should deem reasonable.

CONSONANT to the spirit of this vindictive declaration were the preparations of her Czarish majesty. Twelve regiments of militia were drawn from the Ukraine; and numerous recruits were raised in every part of her dominions, with orders to reinforce the army in Poland. A large train of heavy cannon, with an immense quantity of stores of every kind, were embarked for Königsberg: and every other

measure was adopted to convince the world that she intended to prosecute the war with vigour, and that the mortification of his Prussian majesty was the dearest delight of her heart.

NOR was the Empress Queen less assiduous in making every preparation, and using every precaution that prudence could suggest, to render the ensuing campaign decisive. Silesia seemed to be her favourite object, as all her motions indicated a resolution of bending her chief strength that way. In the same view her Imperial majesty was seconded by the Russians and Swedes.

AMIDST such open and meditated opposition, his Prussian majesty could not be inattentive. His dispositions were made with singular prudence, both in regard to his enemies and his own strength, which a sickly winter considerably diminished. But this misfortune was not peculiar to him alone. The Austrians lost a vast number of men by a similar fatality; and this circumstance retarded the commencement of the campaign on every quarter. His majesty recruited his grand army, and with it watched the motions of Count Daun. His brother
Prince

Prince Henry covered the eastern parts of the Prussian dominions with an army of 40,000 men; and a strong detachment was sent to oppose the Swedes.

MEANWHILE, his Prussian majesty was employed in fortifying his camp near Meissen; a situation strong by nature, and rendered impregnable by art; vast entrenchments being made, and a numerous artillery placed wherever an accessible place presented itself: in the front alone there were 250 pieces of cannon.

DAUN, indeed, was infinitely superior to his majesty in numbers; but, instead of employing his strength for the objects of victory, it was ingloriously wasted in entrenchments near Dresden.

THIS spring, the Swedes got the start of their allies. General Manteufel, who had orders to force the enemy into their strong holds, and to liberate the Prussian territories from predatory incursions, fell a victim to his own security. Count Ferfen, the Swedish general, being informed of the Prussian general's situation at Anclam, in the Further Pomerania, formed

a design to surprize him; a design which he executed in the night between the 27th and 28th of January 1760.

AT five in the morning, the Swedes attacked the Prussians, who were quartered in the suburb of Anclam; and, driving them for shelter into the town, entered with them. On the first alarm, General Manteufel hastened to the scene of action; but being speedily wounded in three places, he dropt; and, in spite of a brave defence, became a prisoner of war. A major, three lieutenants, and 187 rank and file, shared the same fate, besides 13 killed on the spot.

THIS advantage might have been of more importance to the enemies of the Prussian monarch, had the Swedes been able to retreat without interruption, or to maintain their ground at Anclam. But Major General Stat-terheim mounting his horse with the utmost expedition, and assuming the command of the Prussians, whom he rallied, repulsed the Swedes with considerable loss.

EITHER

EITHER a mutual difficulty of procuring provisions, or the hopes of a peace, which began to revive in the spring, retarded the military operations of this campaign till a period unusually late. Indeed, several proposals, introductory to a pacification, were made to the belligerent powers by the States General; and the King of Poland made an offer of the city of Nancy, as a proper place for a convention of plenipotentiaries. The ministers of England, France, and Prussia, at the Hague, dispatched new propositions of peace to their respective courts, about the middle of March; and Leipzig and Breda were proposed for a congress. Such negotiations very probably made the generals of the different armies unwilling to act with precipitation, or to risk a decisive stroke; nevertheless, they did not neglect any opportunity that presented itself of skirmishing to advantage. The Austrians attempted to surprize the advanced guard of the Prussian camp in Saxony. General Beck conducted the attack, which was made on the 20th of February; and, in the first onset, fortune seemed inclined to favour him. The Prussians were thrown into some disorder; but, soon recovering themselves, they rallied, and repulsed the enemy, notwithstanding

standing the superiority of their numbers. The loss in men was nearly equal; but the Austrians happening to make General Czeritz prisoner, who commanded the party attacked, they published a most pompous account of this affair, which they represented in all the splendour of an important victory.

THE very next day another skirmish happened in Prussian Pomerania. A party of Russian Cossacks, belonging to Major Settlement's corps, which had long ravaged the eastern parts of that country, having for some time hovered round the vicinity of Starguard, under favour of the night, advanced as far as Schwedt, surprized the Margrave in his palace, and the Prince and Princess of Wurtemberg, whom they carried away by force. This affair coming to the knowledge of the Prince of Bevern, he dispatched a party of horse in pursuit of those marauders; and such was the expedition they used, that the Cossacks were overtaken near Damm, totally routed, and their spoils and prisoners recovered.

A MORE serious attempt was that of General Laudohn, to surprize the Prussian troops at Neustadt.

Neustadt. The subsequent is the best authenticated account of this transaction which we have been able to discover.

LIEUTENANT General Baron Goltzee having received intelligence of General Laudohn's motions, which indicated an attack, recalled all his detachments, and began his march towards Neifs, on the 15th of March, with his combined strength. Meanwhile, General Laudohn, who had quitted his winter-quarters on the 14th, with a considerable force, by a stolen march during the night, was in hopes of surprizing the Prussian troops at Neustadt. The latter had scarcely advanced beyond the gates, when they were surrounded by those of the enemy.

TWICE did General Laudohn summon the Prussians, by sound of trumpet, to lay down their arms; but finding them too heroic to comply, he ordered all his cavalry to advance. General Jacquemin fell on the advanced guard, while General Laudohn himself attacked the rear; and the hussars, in platoons, flanked the baggage. The Austrian cavalry advanced six times, on a gallop, within ten paces of the Prussians;

Prussians; but perceiving many fall on their side, and among them several officers, retreated in great disorder. Afterwards a body of Croats, who had taken possession of a wood between Siebenhangen and Stenau, through which the roads were extremely bad, and by the vast quantity of rain which had lately fallen rendered almost impassable for carriages, were attacked on all sides by the Prussians. Unfortunately, a waggon broke down in a defile; and as the Prussians did not give themselves the trouble of staying to repair it, they were obliged to abandon all that remained behind it. By this misfortune, five covered waggons, laden with baggage, and a considerable quantity of provisions, fell into the hands of the enemy, who harraßed the Prussians as far as Steinau, and were incessantly engaged with their rear-guard.

THE Austrian loss, however, is said to have far exceeded the Prussian: they buried above 300 men, and sent 500 wounded to Neustadt. The prisoners taken by the Prussians were pretty numerous, among whom were several officers of rank. Their own loss, including the missing, scarcely amounted to 170 men; which,

which, considering the superiority of the enemy, was less than might have reasonably been expected.

THE only advantage the Austrians derived from this affair, was the possession of Neustadt; but General Laudohn, finding himself in no condition to maintain his acquisition, abandoned it on the 17th, and retreated to Jagernsdorff.

EVERY prospect of accommodation having by this time vanished, the army of the Empire began to stir. General Luckinski, with a considerable detachment from the Imperial army, and a train of fifteen pieces of cannon, marched in the night between the 16th and 17th of April, towards the village of Zeitz, and attacked two squadrons of the regiment of carabineers. He took 8 officers, and about 100 troopers; but being pursued by a Prussian detachment under General Salomon, the Imperialists were obliged to relinquish their captives.

HIS Prussian majesty having resolved to take the field, collected all his troops from that

chain of their cantonment, in the vicinity of Wildruff, extending from the forest of Tharandt, on the right of the Elbe. This was effected without loss. He then fixed his headquarters at Schlettau, a small village, distant only about half a league from Meissen; and ordering the troops at Freyberg to begin their march on the 23d of April, and to encamp at Meissen, his majesty sat down with his grand army in a most advantageous situation, between the Elbe and the Mulda. Where nature had not rendered this camp impregnable, it was made inaccessible by deep entrenchments, fortified with 250 pieces of heavy cannon.

HIS majesty having taken possession of this camp, and secured it by every art which a perfect knowledge of defence could suggest, detached 10,000 men to join his brother Prince Henry, who was assembling an army near Frankfort on the Oder to oppose the Russians; and, if need required, the king was now in a situation to be able to reinforce his other armies, without incurring the danger of exposing that which he commanded himself.

NOR were the Austrians indolent in their measures for taking the field, though Count Daun still kept close in his strong encampment to watch the operations of the king. General Laudohn was ordered to occupy the passes of Wartha and Silverberg; which service he effectually performed by a feint march against Landshut, and thereby diverted the attention of the Prussians from his real design.

LAUDOHN having secured this advantageous situation, endeavoured to improve his scheme; and being informed that General Fouquet, at Landshut, had weakened his post by detachments under Major Generals Zeithen and Grant, and concluding this was a favourable opportunity of wiping off the disgrace he had a few days before experienced, in being frustrated in his attempt on Glatz, instantly formed the resolution of attacking Landshut, where General Fouquet commanded. Accordingly, leaving a small body of troops before Glatz, Laudohn proceeded on his meditated expedition with 50,000 men.

FOUQUET was incontrovertibly deficient in strength for resisting such a force; but, anxious

to maintain the post at Landshut, which he had recently and gallantly acquired, he took every imaginable precaution to secure himself from a surprize.

AT two o'clock in the morning of the 23d, General Laudohn, with his combined force, attacked at once all the redoubts which Fouquet possessed near Landshut, and speedily carried three of them, after a vigorous but unequal defence. The general having thrown himself into the two redoubts which he still retained on the heights of Kirchberg and Galgenberg, was twice summoned to surrender his troops; but neither the impending danger, nor the little prospect he had of future success, could prevail on him to comply. He was then attacked with redoubled fury by the enemy; who, by their superior force, penetrated at last into the redoubts, which were defended with amazing resolution till six o'clock. General Fouquet, after receiving two wounds, fell into the hands of the enemy: but part of his infantry, and almost the entire body of cavalry, forced their way through the enemy, and reached Breslau.

MAJOR

MAJOR General Zeithen, who had been detached with four battalions and two squadrons to preserve a communication with Schweidnitz, on the approach of the enemy, threw himself into that place, without the loss of a single man.

THOUGH this affair was unfortunate for the Prussians, General Fouquet derived the highest honour from the circumstances with which it was attended. He defended himself, with the utmost bravery, against an army of 50,000 men; and did not yield till the loss of the enemy was at least equal to the remains of his own army. Indeed, the Austrians themselves confess they had nearly 6000 men killed, and almost double that number wounded; and it was never yet known that a successful enemy wished to lessen the merits of the victory.

WHAT number of men the Prussians lost does not clearly appear. An account published at Breslau informs us, that about 3000 men escaped. Those who fell sold their lives very dear; and, it is probable, they did not exceed 4000.

ELATED

ELATED with this success, General Laudohn resumed his attempt upon Glatz; and on the 26th, at five in the morning, his batteries on the left, under the direction of Colonel Rouvroy, began a very brisk fire. An hour after, that part which was under Colonel Alsfon, played on the old fortress, and the fleche at the left of the attack was abandoned by the enemy. Immediately M. de Bechard, major of the corps of Sappers, supported by some detachments of grenadiers, took possession of it, by order of the general, who was present at the time.

THE efforts made to regain this fleche rebounded very little to their glory. They were driven back to the covered way, and even to the outer posts of the principal works. The desertion was so great, that whole companies came over to the besiegers. In a short time the whole garrison laid down their arms. The Austrians entered the old fortress sword in hand; the new one surrendered at discretion.

THIS action continued only from half after six in the morning to eleven in the forenoon; and it does as little credit to the Prussians as
any

any we have ever had occasion to record. The magazine at Glatz was immense: it contained 101 brass cannons, 220 grenadoes, 11,000 cartouches, a number of mortars, and a vast quantity of ammunition.

HIS Prussian majesty had fixed on Dresden as the first object of his operations; and inferior considerations had little weight with him. But the vigilance of Daun was to be eluded, and an expedient was to be found which might free him from such a disagreeable inspector of every motion. For this purpose his majesty decamped, and marched his army in two columns through Lusatia, in the beginning of July; which gave such an evident indication of his design to penetrate into Silesia, that Daun was the dupe of the meditated artifice. He left Saxony in the care of the Imperialists, and a body of Austrians under Count Laschy, and marched into Silesia with his whole army, with the utmost expedition.

THE king had now accomplished his wish. Having certain intelligence that Daun was removed to a considerable distance, he cut short his own route, and directed his march to attack
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the forces under General Lascey, near Lichtenberg, which retired at his approach. He then made all imaginable speed to reach Dresden, and encamped between that city and Pirna.

AN attack was instantly resolved on, and every requisite preparation was expedited. He summoned the governor to surrender; but the garrison and the fortifications were in much better condition than at the time the Austrians miscarried before it; and its defence was committed to General Macguire, a man whose military experience, and personal bravery had recommended him to that important station. The governor returned for answer, that he was resolved to defend that capital to the last extremity. The same night the Prussian batteries began to play from both sides of the Elbe. The firing was kept up for some days; but neither the vigour with which his Prussian majesty continued his operations, nor the possession of the suburbs towards the Pirna gate, which the Prussians carried after an animated attack, nor the pathetic remonstrances of the miserably distressed citizens, who petitioned the governor to consent to a capitulation, could have the least influence on General Macguire's determination.

determination. The town was not only in a tenable state, but he derived great expectations from the vicinity of the Imperial army, and Laschy's detachment encamped near Gross Seydlitz, to which place they had removed on this occasion; and from the vigilance of Count Daun, who, he was confident, would hasten to his relief as soon as he was informed of his situation.

COUNT Daun did not frustrate the expectations of the governor. When he perceived the deception, and that he had been duped by the march of his Prussian majesty, and at the same time was acquainted with the danger to which Dresden was exposed, he wheeled about, and advanced with such rapidity, that his grand army reached the scene of action, in the neighbourhood of Dresden, on the 19th day; and he dextrously contrived to throw 16 battalions into the town.

THE proximity of so many very formidable armies obliged his majesty to raise the siege; but he first wreaked his vengeance, by playing his heavy artillery in such a manner, that the

most splendid structures in the city were speedily laid in ashes.

DISAPPOINTED in his views on Dresden, the King of Prussia now practised every art to draw Count Daun to a battle. But that cautious general was equally on his guard to prevent it; and a dilatory suspension of action, in his present situation, plunged him deeper into danger. This determined the king's resolution of marching into Silesia, where his affairs began to assume the most ruinous aspect. For should the Russians, who were in full march to join the Austrians under General Laudohn, effect their design, it would be impossible for his brother Prince Henry to maintain his ground; and not only Schweidnitz and Neiss, but the whole country of Silesia, the chief object of the war between him and the Empress Queen, must be abandoned to the mercy of the enemy. The strongest probability existed of this, unless Prince Henry could be timely supported with a sufficient force to prevent the junction of the Austrians and Russians.

LAUDOHN, encouraged by his success at Landshut and Glatz, which has been already mentioned,

mentioned, had laid siege to Breslau, and made such additional dispositions as evinced his intentions against Schweidnitz and Neiss. Prince Henry was supposed to be too far distant from Breslau to be able to afford it any assistance. The Austrians arrived before it on the 30th of July; and on the first of August, the Prussian commandant having answered his summons with a declared resolution of defending the place to the last extremity, General Laudohn, without waiting for his heavy artillery, commenced a most severe bombardment, which destroyed the finest edifices in the city, and among the rest the palace of his Prussian majesty.

PRINCE Henry, who was encamped at Gleissen, watching the motions of the Russians, and foreseeing the necessity of preventing a junction between them and Laudohn's forces, which was evidently intended, resolved to march to Glogau, and accordingly set forward on the 27th of July. Here he received the first intelligence of the siege of Breslau; and, though he had occupied this post with a view of preventing the farther progress of the Rus-

fians, he instantly determined to march with all possible expedition to it's relief.

THE execution of this resolution was as sudden as it's effect was salutary. On the 3d of August his royal highness arrived at Parchwitz, a post occupied by 2000 Austrians, who retired beyond the Oder, and burnt the bridge at the prince's approach. General Caramelli having repassed the Oder near Breslau, to rejoin General Laudohn, fell into the hands of the Prussian general Werner, who cut to pieces a considerable part of the regiment of dragoons belonging to the Archduke Joseph, and took 370 men prisoners, exclusive of officers. Those who escaped gave the alarm to Laudohn, who raising the siege of Breslau with precipitation, hastily retreated to Canth. On the 5th the Prussians arrived at Lissa, and next day crossed the Elbe at Breslau.

LAUDOHN, notwithstanding the greatest activity, was unable to effect his retreat without loss. Prince Henry detached several parties to harass his army, and they brought in several hundreds of prisoners.

NOTHING

NOTHING but the expedition used by Prince Henry could have saved Breslau, and with it all Silesia must have submitted to the enemy. For the Russians, on the 5th, had advanced within five miles of that capital; but were obliged to retreat by the vigorous and prudent conduct of Prince Henry, who having taken possession of the heights, and displayed uncommon ingenuity in manœuvring, frustrated not only the Austrian, but also the Russian attempt on Breslau; and, with an army vastly inferior, prevented the junction of the two armies.

PRINCE Henry passed the Oder on the 6th, at Breslau, with a considerable detachment, of which he resigned the command to General Plathén; and having received intelligence that a strong body of the Russians were posted at Hunsfield, his royal highness gave orders to Colonel Thadden to occupy the height of Freywald, which, had it fallen into the hands of the enemy, would have facilitated the bombardment of Breslau. The colonel executed his commission; and there discovered the whole Russian army encamped behind Hunsfield;

field; a circumstance of which Prince Henry had been but partially apprized.

THADDEN immediately raised a redoubt on the height, which, though occupied only by one battalion, kept the whole army of the enemy in awe. The Russians assaulted it with royal grenades, during the afternoon of the 7th, without making the least impression.

LAUDOHN being still encamped at Canth, Prince Henry maintained such a position as seemed best adapted to cover Breslau from his attempts. The Russian army left Hunsfield on the 9th; while Platen and Thadden, assisted by some battalions dispatched by Prince Henry for that purpose, harraided the vanguard of the enemy, and did them essential damage.

THE approach of the king being now expected, his royal highness flattered himself that, by remaining on the left of the Oder, he should be able to keep the Russians in some awe; but perceiving, by several motions of the Russians, that General Platen's camp at Prottsch would thereby be exposed, he formed
the

the resolution of crossing the river, and encamping at Hunern, which he effected on the 12th. This gave some alarm to the enemy; they set on fire four villages, through which his route lay; and the Cossacks, supported by some infantry and artillery, several times attacked his advanced troops, but without making any impression.

THIS was a crisis when a moderate share of enterprize and conduct in the enemies of Prussia could not have failed to have ruined the affairs of that nation in Silesia. The king was sensible of this; and with an amazing rapidity, and in defiance of all obstructions which he might reasonably have expected in passing through a country in the hands of his enemies, in five days time compleated a march of 200 miles; and arrived on the 7th of August, without loss, at Bautzlau, though incumbered with upwards of 2000 waggons; and obliged, in his route, to pass the Elbe, the Spree, the Neiss, the Queiss, and the Bober. A single atchievement that would have crowned any general with the laurels of deserved applause; an atchievement that can neither be sufficiently admired nor accounted for, when we reflect, that

Daun,

Daun, with a much superior army, was solely employed in watching the king's motions, and could have no higher object than to prevent him from penetrating into Silesia.

THE king allowed his wearied troops to rest till the 9th, when he encamped at Hohendorff. General Laudohn had previously occupied the heights of Prausnitz; and General Beck was appointed to cover the march of the enemy. On the 10th the king possessed himself of the camp at Lignitz; and the Austrian army, which had followed him, occupied the whole extent between Parchwitz and Cossendau. Marshal Daun forming the centre with his army, and occupying the heights of Wahlstadt, and Hochkirk; Marshal Laudohn covering the ground between Jeschkendorff and Caschitz; General Wauhendorff possessing the heights of Parchwitz; and General Beck, who formed the left, extending his troops beyond Cossendau.

THIS advantageous position of the enemy prevented the king from passing the Katzbach and Scartwasser, as he originally intended; so that his army marched in the night of the 11th to turn the enemy, and to reach Jauer. By
break

break of day the columns had advanced as far as Hohendorff, from which a new camp at Prausnitz was discovered, that had just been formed by General Laschy's detachment.

THE king immediately advanced to attack him; but Laschy had made his dispositions with so much skill, and knew so well how to avail himself of the advantages of the ground, that he accomplished a retreat to Marshal Daun, without affording the Prussians any opportunity of attacking him with success.

ON the 13th the Prussians resumed their camp at Lignitz; and Marshal Daun returned to his former position at Hatzbach. At this instant the king received intelligence that the Russians had erected a bridge at Auras, and intended to pass it that very day with 24,000 men. It was moreover suspected, that they had some intentions of acting on the offensive; at least, the motions they made gave evident indications of such an intention; and the king was too vigilant and attentive to every circumstance that could affect him, to suffer himself to be taken by surprise.

FREDERICK was speedily convinced of the danger he was exposed to, should he wait in his camp for the approach of the enemy; he foresaw that it was concerted by the Austrian general to commence a triple attack at once; that General Lacy was to advance on his right; Marshal Daun to attack him in front; and General Laudohn to fall on his left; and, at the same time, to possess himself of the eminences of Plaffendorff. The king hastened to possess himself of those eminences, which considerably altered the scene of operations, and disconcerted the dispositions the enemy had previously made from the nature of the ground.

SCARCELY had the Prussians gained this new position, when they were informed, about two o'clock in the morning, that General Laudohn was in full march, and that his columns were advanced by Bennowitz. On this the Prussian army separated into two bodies; one of which remained on the ground, where it had formed, to observe Marshal Daun; the other, consisting of sixteen battalions, and thirty squadrons, faced about, in order to fall on the corps under Laudohn.

THE Austrians had flattered themselves that they should find only a few weak detachments

on those heights, where the Prussians were drawn up in battle array; and, in this presumption, their advanced parties, about three o'clock in the morning of the 15th of August, attacked those of the Prussians, who gave way. This confirmed their preconceived opinion of the Prussian weakness at this post, and encouraged Laudohn to accelerate the movements of his main army, to push his success, little apprehending any serious opposition in his attempt to secure that important station.

THE return of day convinced the Austrian general of his mistake; to his concern and surprize, he saw the whole Prussian army drawn up in order of battle, and ready to receive him in the most excellent order. He was now too far advanced to retreat—there was no hopes of avoiding a battle, without submitting to a certain defeat—like a brave man, he was determined to face the danger which was absolutely inevitable; and to leave the issue to the valour of his troops, and the decisions of fortune. He had only time to form, before the Prussians began the attack with such spirit, and with such conduct, that, notwithstanding a valiant defence, the Austrians were forced

to yield, and were repulsed as far as Katzbach; maintaining a running fight all the way, attended with prodigious slaughter.

HIS Prussian majesty, expecting that Marshal Daun would not neglect this opportunity of attacking his right, which was not in a condition to maintain their ground without farther assistance, thought it prudent to desist from a too eager prosecution of the advantage he had gained; and possessed himself of a situation from which he might be able to grant the requisite assistance to his right, should it appear to stand in need. Daun, indeed, made the expected attempt repeatedly; but the disadvantage of the ground, and the fire of the Prussian battalions, to which his columns were much exposed, defeated all his skill and vigour: he was obliged to acquiesce in his loss.

THIS battle, which lasted only two hours, may be considered as a compleat victory on the part of the Prussians; and it may justly be said to have originated rather from the abilities of their king, than the strength of his armies. However, it's consequences were sufficiently valuable; it retrieved the Prussian affairs in Silesia,

lesia, by obliging the confederate Austrians and Russians to evacuate that province; it prevented the long meditated junction between Prince Soltikoff and General Laudohn; and it frustrated their designs on Breslau and Schweidnitz.

IN this action the enemy lost upwards of 10,000 men. Two generals, 80 officers, and upwards of 5000 prisoners, together with 82 pieces of cannon, and 23 pair of colours, were taken. Two thousand lay dead on the field of battle; a vast number died of their wounds, and the numbers that deserted were still more considerable. The Prussians had scarcely 100 men killed and wounded in the engagement: it was one of the cheapest advantages they had ever gained.

AN intercepted letter of the king's to the Marquis d'Argens, written soon after this affair, displays the hero in an eminent degree; and some extracts from it cannot fail to please.

‘AT any other time, my dear marquis,’ says his majesty, ‘the affair of the 15th would have decided the campaign: at present that
‘ action

‘ action is no more than a scratch. A general
‘ engagement must determine our fate: it will
‘ soon happen, if we may give credit to ap-
‘ pearances; and then, if the issue is favourable,
‘ we can enjoy ourselves. Meanwhile, I thank
‘ you for the sincere part you take in the ad-
‘ vantage gained. Many wiles, and much ad-
‘ dress, were required to bring on the action.
‘ Don’t mention dangers; the late affair cost
‘ me only a coat and a horse: this was buy-
‘ ing victory cheap.

‘ I NEVER was in such an ugly situation as
‘ I am this campaign. Believe me, nothing
‘ but a miracle can enable us to surmount
‘ all the difficulties I foresee. But, my dear
‘ marquis, always remember that I do not de-
‘ spair of fortune, and that in my plans I am
‘ obliged to leave too much to chance, for want
‘ of means to form more solid projects. I have
‘ the labours of an Hercules to undergo, at an
‘ age when my strength leaves me, when my
‘ infirmities increase, and when, to tell you
‘ the truth, hope, the sole consolation of the
‘ wretched, begins to fail me.

‘ I HERE

‘ I HERE lead the life of a military monk. I
 ‘ have many things to think of. The rest of
 ‘ my time I devote to letters, which are my
 ‘ consolation, as they were that of the ancient
 ‘ consuls, dictators, &c. I don’t know whe-
 ‘ ther I shall survive this war; but, if I should,
 ‘ I am fully resolved to pass the rest of my days
 ‘ in retirement, in the bosom of philosophy and
 ‘ friendship.

‘ I KNOW not where we shall have our win-
 ‘ ter-quarters. My house at Breslau was de-
 ‘ stroyed in the late bombardment. Our ene-
 ‘ mies envy us even day-light and free air:
 ‘ they must, however, leave us some place;
 ‘ and, if it be safe, I shall rejoice to see you.’

IMMEDIATELY after the action, the king
 marched to Parchwitz, where he passed the de-
 file that had been so well disputed; and on
 the 16th he advanced towards Neumarck.
 The Austrians and Russians likewise made some
 movements; the latter repassed the Oder at
 Auras.

Soon after this, General Halsen, whom the
 king had left in Saxony with a pretty strong
 body

body of troops, and who was eagerly watched by the combined army of the Imperialists and Austrians, found an opportunity to escape their toils, and even gained a decided advantage over their vastly superior numbers.

BUT these successes were not so definitive as to deprive the enemies of his Prussian majesty of the means of future annoyance. They still possessed power and opportunity for continuing the war, for protracting the campaign, and even for penetrating into the heart of his dominions. Though the Russians, after the battle of Lignitz, were driven to seek a refuge in the mountains of Silesia, a considerable body of them in Pomerania, animated by the arrival of their fleet off Colberg, resolved to lay siege to that sea-port; before which they sat down with a vast army on the 1st of September, while their ships blocked it up by sea. However, this attempt on Colberg was equally as unsuccessful as the former. General Warner was detached with 6000 men from the Prussian camp near Glogau to raise the siege, or to relieve the garrison. The 18th of March he arrived before the place, having performed a journey of 250 miles in eleven days; and the
Russians,

Russians, who flattered themselves they were out of the reach of molestation from any adventitious enemy, were struck with such a panic, that they raised the siege with the greatest precipitation, and retreated, leaving their tents, baggage, cannon, and ammunition, behind them.

MARSHAL Daun was so effectually hemmed in, and confined in his operations by the masterly movements of the king, reinforced by the junction of his brother, that, to emancipate him from this disagreeable situation, the Russians were prevailed on to march into Brandenburg.

THE circumstances of this march, it's motives, and the barbarous irregularities committed by the Russians, were related in a very authentic manner, in a narrative published by the court of Berlin. The account is introduced with a supposition, that the Russians had resolved, by their excesses this year in the territories of his Prussian majesty, to surpass the enormous cruelties to which his dominions had been a prey last year ; and that, after four unsuccessful campaigns, his enemies thought they

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should

should more easily obtain their ends by means equally shocking to humanity and inconsistent with the practice of civilized nations, than by endeavouring to terminate the war by arms, and the superiority of their forces.

IN this light all the operations of the enemy during this campaign, and in particular this famous expedition into Brandenburg, with a resolution to penetrate up to Berlin, present themselves to every impartial enquirer. When wars are carried on in such a stile, they disgrace human nature; the armies which commit such flagrant enormities can only be considered in the light of sanctioned murderers; heroism and generosity, which are necessary to gild the horrors of the most lawful wars, are obliterated from the breast; and savage barbarity becomes the principal rule of action. But let us suspend reflection, and mark the progress of the plunderers.

THE Russian generals Czernichef and Totleben were detached with 20,000 men to invade the Marche of Brandenburg, and General Lascey was sent against Berlin with 14,000 Austrians. The whole Russian army followed

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at no great distance. Each party endeavoured to outstrip the other in expedition; and General Tottleben appeared before Berlin, on the 3d of October, with 2000 light troops and some foot. The city was immediately summoned. It refused to surrender; and every engine of destruction was immediately set to work that could fill the besieged with terror and dismay. Three assaults were made on the Halle Gate, and bravely repulsed. Showers of royal grenades, bombs, and hot iron balls, were poured in without effect; and the prudent measures adopted by the Prussian generals, at Berlin, obliged the Russian commander to retire.

IN the meanwhile, Prince Eugene of Wurtemberg, and Lieutenant General Hulsen, arrived to the assistance of the capital; and, had not the reinforcements of the enemy rapidly advanced to support the first assailants, the enterprize had certainly been wholly abandoned. But the Prussians being now convinced of their inability to risk a battle or maintain a siege against such formidable armies, and unwilling to expose the city to unavailing calamity, withdrew, on the morning of the 6th, towards Span-

dow, and the governor and magistrates made separate capitulations with General Tottleben. It was stipulated, That the town should be delivered up to the Russians; that the garrison should be prisoners of war; and that a contribution of 1,500,000 crowns should be paid as a gratuity to the troops, for which the town was to be exempted from plundering, and secured in liberty and property.

THE prisoners, who did not exceed 1200 men, were carried off; and the cadets, who could not be included in the capitulation, which mentioned only generals, officers, subalterns, and soldiers, were removed along with the rest.

THE terms of the capitulation, though sufficiently advantageous to the captors, were very little regarded. Both Austrians and Russians immediately infringed them. Several Austrian regiments took up their quarters in the town, in direct violation of an express article which prohibited the military from being introduced; and the miserable inhabitants were quickly exposed to the rapine and licentiousness of abandoned marauders. The town
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was, in a manner, over-run with coffacks, hussars, and other light troops, who robbed in the streets, in the houses, and wherever booty was to be found. The citizens were compelled, by the most barbarous acts of violence, to deliver up money, watches, and other valuables, to the soldiery; a great number of persons were beat, wounded, and cruelly treated. It was dangerous in a high degree to appear in the streets; and those whom business called abroad in the evening, were sure to be plundered of what they had in their possession. In short, such a scene of riot and rapine as Berlin exhibited, may be better imagined than described. Humanity recoils at the direful picture which annalists have drawn. Every thing, sacred and profane, was treated with indiscriminate indignity; the tombs were ransacked for hidden treasure; and churches were rifled of their ornaments.

BUT the depredations and excesses committed in Berlin were mildness and justice when compared with what was done in the surrounding towns and villages; the whole country, to the distance of several miles from the gates of the devoted capital, being reduced to perfect

perfect desolation. In particular, the most disgraceful irregularities were licensed at the castle of Charlottenburg: whole squadrons entered it on the 9th of October, and plundered for four days successively, without either check or reprimand. The splendid furniture, the paintings, tapestry, mirrors, and other monuments of art, were destroyed or removed. Even the king's chapel was broke open, and the organs spoiled. The pictures of the royal family were cut and disfigured; and, in short, such dreadful havock was committed on every moveable in this castle, that little more than the walls could be said to remain. Nevertheless, the plunder obtained here did not satisfy the enemy's rapacity; the inhabitants of the town were amerced in 15,000 crowns in ready money, and subjected to the most tyrannical exactions besides.

It would be impossible to particularize every instance of barbarity and injustice which the enemy committed in Berlin and it's vicinity. The women were dishonoured, without regard to age or condition, in presence of their parents and husbands; and, to fill up the measure of their deeds of inhumanity and horror, they disturb-
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ed the sepulchres of the dead, which have always been treated with some veneration even by the most barbarous nations. The troops, under the command of General Laschy, broke open the burying-vault of the Schwerin family; opened the coffin of the master of the horse to the king, who had been dead twelve years, and those of his lady and children; stript the bodies, and dashed them on the ground. Such were the execrable exploits of the enemies of Prussia: and may they be handed down to remotest posterity with the opprobrium they deserve; that future wars may be conducted on more manly principles, or that entailed disgrace may deter those, whom the laws of honour are too weak to restrain, from the commission of similar enormities!

THIS irruption of the enemy into Brandenburg had the desired effect. His Prussian majesty could not tamely endure the ruin of his Electorate and the misery of his subjects. He accordingly called in his detachments, which locked up Daun in the mountains, marched, and arrived at Damm on the 20th of October.

MARSHAL

MARSHAL Daun, released from his blockade, immediately followed his majesty; keeping, however, such a respectful distance as prevented the danger of being forced into action. The Russian generals were no sooner apprized of the approach of the king to the relief of his subjects, than they fled with great precipitation; thereby evincing, that cruelty and cowardice are inseparably connected.

THE flight of the Russians enabled Frederick to remove the theatre of the war into Saxony, where the Austrians and Imperialists had got possession of Leipzig, Wittenberg, and Torgau, during his absence from that country on the important affairs just recited. And, when despair gloomed the faces of his majesty's friends, he resumed his military operations with the most astonishing vigour, chastized his enemies, and irradiated the horizon of his glory in a more splendid manner than it had been at any time since the commencement of the campaign. Contemning enemies who dared not face him in action, and were only valiant against the innocent and defenceless, his majesty passed the Elbe with his right, on the 27th; and at Rossau being joined by the
troops

troops under Prince Eugene of Wurtemberg and General Hulfen, he advanced on the 28th to Kemberg, where he met his left, amounting in all to 80,000 men.

DAUN, ever attentive to his majesty's movements, called in the corps under General Laschy, and also crossed the Elbe at Torgau; and soon after discovered his intention of opening a communication with the army of the Empire, encamped near Leipfic. But this design being found impracticable, the Imperialists decamped, and got clear off in a fog; and Daun fell back to Torgau. General Hulfen drove the Imperialists from before Leipfic, took possession of the city, manned the garrison, and rejoined the Prussian main army, which had encamped at Eulemberg.

THE return of almost every fun brought some additional advantage to his Prussian majesty. But his permanent security was not to be procured by the longest series of successful skirmishes, and partial defeats: a general engagement was become more necessary than ever to establish his affairs; and he adopted the resolution of rather dying in the field of

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battle,

battle, in defence of his dominions and his subjects, than in suffering them to sink under the burden and continuation of a consuming war.

EVERY possible precaution had been taken by the Austrian general to prevent a surprize; and, in a camp so well fortified as his, he little dreamed of an attack. But on the 2d of November, the king decamped, and directed his march towards the Austrian army. He divided his army into three columns, one of which he commanded himself, and dispatched them by different routes; while General Zeithen, with a considerable force, was directed to take the great Leipzig road, and to exert his endeavours against the villages of Suplitz and Groschwitz. As the columns advanced, they fell in with various detachments of the enemy, which they repulsed with great loss, taking many prisoners. But we pass over these un consequential advantages, and hasten to relate the interesting engagement which was about to take place.

THE king advanced towards Torgau, and approached the enemy's lines about three
o'clock

o'clock in the afternoon of the 3d. Daun received him with a brisk fire of 200 pieces of cannon: his right extended to Groswich, and his left to Zinne; his foot occupied very advantageous eminences along the Leipzig road; his second line, against which the king directed his attack, was stationed on a spot which terminated in hillocks towards the Elbe.

THE attack was disposed by his majesty in such a manner, that either his right or his left must take the enemy in rear, and close them in; so that they should be disabled from undertaking any thing against that quarter where he intended to effect his attack. Nevertheless, the Prussians were repulsed at the first onset, after a very smart fire of artillery and small arms; and the grenadiers suffered much from the Austrian carabineers. The king made a most animated attack a second time; but his men were again repulsed, and forced to retire. This was an inauspicious beginning; but his majesty was not dispirited.

HE now ordered Bareith's dragoons to advance, who took prisoners the emperor's own regiment, and several others. At the same
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time Spaen's cuirassiers fell upon other regiments of foot, and put them into disorder. On this the enemy advanced between 60 and 80 battalions towards Torgau, placing their left at Zinne, and their right at the Elbe. The Prince of Holstein set out to meet them with the cavalry, and at first obliged them to fall back; but, at the second shock, he was himself reduced to the same situation. He returned again to the charge; and a third line of foot attacked the vineyard of Suplitz, whilst General Zeithen, with the right wing, took the enemy in rear. This disposition had the desired success; the Austrians were thrown into manifest disorder. It was now a quarter after nine; and as the night was uncommonly dark, it was impossible to pursue the enemy. Marshal Daun received a wound in the thigh; and, perhaps, the victory was facilitated by his wound.

THE enemy were busily employed, during the night, in crossing the Elbe with all speed, on three bridges of boats, which were thrown over it at Torgau; and next morning, at day-break, the Prussians entered that town, and seized

seized a considerable number of boats belonging to the bridges.

IN this engagement the enemy lost 4 generals, 200 officers, and 7000 men made prisoners; 29 pair of colours, 1 standard, and 37 pieces of cannon. In the first attack, where the Prussians met with a repulse, the enemy took two generals, and about 1500 soldiers. They had likewise about 2500 men killed, and 4900 wounded. In short, the action was extremely sharp; the ground was well disputed on both sides; and though the Prussians were allowed to be the victors, their success was not cheaply purchased. The king's breast was grazed by a bullet, and the Margrave Charles received a violent contusion on the thigh.

MARSHAL Daun, immediately on receiving his wound, resigned the command of the army to General Buccow; and the arm of the latter being shot off in a few minutes after, the sole command devolved on General O'Donnel; who retreating with great expedition towards Dresden, provided for the safety of that city,
and

and possessed himself of the strong camp at Plauen.

THE Prussian enemies were filled with terror on the news of this battle. All Saxony fell once more into the hands of the Prussian monarch, except Dresden and the Austrian camp. The Russians retreated into Poland; and General Laudohn, who commanded a strong corps of Austrians in Silesia, raised the siege of Coid, and retired into the county of Glatz, as soon as the disagreeable intelligence reached him.

HAVING obtained a temporary respite from the machinations of those potent enemies, who made the best of their way into winter quarters, his Prussian majesty detached 10,000 men, under General Focade, by the route of Thuringia, to join Prince Ferdinand in his operations against the French; and then cantoned the remainder of his troops for the winter.

THE propitious conclusion of this campaign extricated his Prussian majesty from the many formidable and imminent dangers that were collected

collected round him, and placed him in a more desirable situation than he had been for some time. He now maintained the full possession of all his own dominions, excepting those provinces which he had lost at the commencement of the war: and he had now over-run and seized on the greatest part of Lusatia, Saxony, Swedish Pomerania, and Mecklenburg, from whence he had an opportunity of raising large contributions for the support of his army, and of retaliating on the enemy the extortions and depredations committed on his subjects.

It is impossible to review the military acts of his Prussian majesty, during this arduous and critical campaign, without being filled with admiration of his abilities and exertions. The Swedes were repulsed with considerable loss; the Russians, who had exercised the most wanton barbarities, fled at his approach, and took shelter in mountains and woods; and the Austrians and Imperialists were obliged to abandon their conquests, and leave his majesty in possession of all their laurels, except Dresden.

GEORGE

GEORGE II. of Great Britain, had paid the debt of nature on October 25th of this year; and his death in some measure altered the complexion of affairs. When his present majesty addressed his first parliament, he declared it to be his intention to maintain, to the utmost of his power, the good faith and honour of his crown, by adhering firmly to the engagements entered into with his allies, and particularly the King of Prussia; and this was re-echoed by the unanimous resolution of both houses. But a considerable space of time elapsed without any steps being taken towards the support of the King of Prussia, and the independency of our allies and friends; and, after a tedious interval of suspense, and numerous evasions to the Prussian minister, the subsidy was either withdrawn or refused.

INDEED, very early in the year 1761, the courts of Vienna, Petersburg, France, Sweden, and Saxony, agreed, severally and jointly, to offer proposals towards renewing the negotiation for peace, which had been abruptly broken off. France appeared the first mover; but she was supposed to be least sincere in her proposal. Declarations were signed; plenipotentiaries

potentiaries were nominated to meet at Aulburg, in Germany, which was allowed to be the most commodious situation for the different belligerent powers to confer on such an occasion. The courts of London and Versailles took the principal lead in the negociation; but, after many evasions and artifices on the part of France, that power was discovered to be insincere, or at least to insist on such terms as would have been little advantageous to Great Britain, and highly injurious to her allies. This country, therefore, resolved to push on the war with vigour; and in the mean time to protract the negociation, in hopes that future success might enable it to procure better conditions for it's allies, whose interests it would have been highly dishonourable, nay disgraceful, to relinquish.

THUS the commencement of the year 1761 was a mixture of pacifick and hostile measures; and hence we may account for the vigorous motions of the allied army, in the depth of winter, to dislodge, or at least deprive the French army under Marshal Duc de Broglie from turning their present advantageous position to the ruin of the Protestant cause, when they

might be disposed to renew their operations. Prince Ferdinand met with various success; he beat, and was beaten; but, on the whole, he averted the imminence of the danger with which he was threatened had he remained inactive.

BUT let us now turn to the King of Prussia; who, being disappointed in the subsidy from England, which had enabled him to act with vigour, was now obliged to remain on the defensive. The Austrians regarded this change of conduct in his Prussian majesty as a piece of generalship, and judged it most expedient to adopt his plan, and to watch his movements.

THE state of both parties was extremely critical; the loss of a battle on either side might greatly influence the negotiations at Aushurg to the prejudice of the conquered: caution was extremely requisite; but its dictates were too frigid for the active spirit of Frederick long to brook. The detachments of his army made some bold and successful attacks; but as yet his majesty remained in a strong camp at Schweidnitz, in Upper Silesia, while his brother Prince Henry had taken post

near

near Leipzig, to watch the Austrians under Count Daun. The king himself was vigilantly attended by General Laudohn, who only waited for a favourable opportunity of coming to action.

BUT the most alarming circumstance to his majesty was the operations of the Russians: they had taken the field, and were marching in two divisions; one, under Marshal Tottleben, proceeded through Pomerania; the other, led by Marshal Butterlin, entered the Upper Silesia, and took the route of Breslau. At the same time Marshal Laudohn made his dispositions with a manifest design to unite their armies, and either to attack the king or take Breslau in his presence.

THE junction of those formidable armies his majesty found it impossible to prevent. The Russians having crossed the Oder, possessed themselves of the open country, exacted heavy contributions, and detached a body to cannonade Breslau, which they did very severely from seven batteries; but the garrison being reinforced, sallied out, and obliged the assailants to decamp with loss.

LAUDOHN tried every stratagem, in vain, to draw the king from his impregnable camp; neither the motions of the Austrians or the Russians could provoke or prevail with him to quit his situation, or divide his forces. Schweidnitz was threatened with a siege; Lower Silesia was in danger of being over run; and the Russians, under General Romanzoff, (for Tottleben had been removed on suspicion of treachery) actually resumed their operations against Colberg, which the Swedes had engaged to favour.

NOTWITHSTANDING the powerful armaments, both by sea and land, which invested this fortress, his Prussian majesty, depending on the fidelity of the garrison, and the inexperience of the enemy, gave himself little trouble about its relief; which security was afterwards the fatal cause of his losing this important post.

ON the entrance of the Russians into Pomerania, about the beginning of June, they commenced their operations with a furious attack on Belgrade; but they were repulsed with

with great loss, and forced from their posts by the vigilance and resolution of General Werner.

THIS was not all his majesty had to attract his attention. The army of the Empire, in Saxony, shewed a disposition to attack Leipzig. General Seydlitz received them with amazing bravery; they retired with the utmost precipitation, and in future avoided the Prussian cantonments. Nevertheless, Europe in general gave his Prussian majesty up for lost; but the fertility of his genius suggested a specious way of relief, and disconcerted all the measures of his enemies.

THE Russians had placed their chief dependence on their magazines in Poland, which they had covered with a vast army under General Fermor. His majesty therefore dispatched General Platen to attempt the destruction of these magazines; a service which he performed with extraordinary success.

THE Russian detachment under General Butterlin, on news of this secret expedition, immediately withdrew from the Austrian camp, where

where they had acted in concert with Laudohn in watching the motions of his Prussian majesty; and by this means the force of Laudohn being considerably weakened, the king ventured to quit his strong camp at Schweidnitz, and to advance nearer the Oder, in quest of provisions, of which his army stood in great need.

THE king had no sooner left his camp, than Laudohn resolved to attack Schweidnitz by a coup de main. This was the most valuable place which the Prussians possessed in Silesia: it's situation was central; it was strongly fortified; and his majesty had deposited here a vast quantity of artillery and military stores.

THE 1st of October, at three in the morning, was ordered for the execution of this enterprize. A select number of troops were ordered on this service; who, aided by a thick fog, got under the walls, and even fixed their scaling-ladders in four different places, before the garrison was apprized of it's danger. They scaled the walls with amazing resolution; the Prussians were confounded with the suddenness

ness of the attack; and by break of day the enemy got entire possession of the town.

LIEUTENANT General Zastrow, the governor, and about 3000 men, were made prisoners at discretion. The Austrians lost only about 600 men. Some reflections were thrown on the governor; but there never appeared any just reason to suspect his fidelity. The king, in his letter to him on this melancholy occasion, writes—"We may now say, "with Francis I. of France, after the battle "of Pavia, *we have lost every thing but our* "honour. As I cannot comprehend what has "happened to you, I must suspend my judgment: the thing is very extraordinary."

THIS acquisition gave the Austrians such a footing in Silesia, that they obliged the king to return to Breslau, and secured to themselves winter-quarters in that province. Advices from other detachments of the Prussian forces were more favourable; they gave his majesty some hopes of weathering the tide of adverse fortune.

PRINCE

PRINCE Henry, who was still strongly encamped in the vicinity of Meissen, was attacked by Daun, who failed in the attempt. He, indeed, succeeded in carrying some of the Prussian advanced posts, but he found it impracticable to force his lines; he therefore retired, and distributed his army into cantonments, about Dresden, for the winter. The Imperial army followed his example; it took quarters at Naumberg and Zwickaw.

FOR some time, his Prussian majesty received flattering accounts from Colberg. The united fleets of Russia and Sweden, which had invested it by sea, were driven off the coast by a storm, and obliged to return home; and the garrison had been relieved with a seasonable supply of provisions by sea from Stettin. Additional forces had been sent to support the besieged, under the generals Platen and Knoblock; but Romanzoff was not to be discouraged by accident or opposition; he prosecuted the siege with the greatest vigour. Platen and Knoblock were both defeated. The Russian force amounted to 50,000 men; the garrison was distressed by famine; the fortress was almost battered to pieces. The Prince of Wurtem-

Wurtemberg, who had been entrenched under the walls, was reduced, by the closeness of the siege, to adopt the alternative of perishing by hunger, or cutting his way through the Russians: he chose the latter, and escaped with very inconsiderable loss.

COLONEL Hayde, who had defended this town against all the efforts of Russia during this war, being now left without the possibility of relief, was forced to surrender. The garrison became prisoners of war on the 16th of December.

THIS gave the Russians permission to take up their winter-quarters for the first time in Pomerania: and the situation of the King of Prussia with the Austrians at Schweidnitz, and the Russians at Colberg, the two extremes of his dominions, deprived him of the means of making any movement which the enemy might not improve to his inevitable ruin.

THUS the campaign, as far as related to his Prussian majesty, terminated without one regular battle, or any considerable defeat on either side; and yet his affairs were never in a

more deplorable condition. The reasons already assigned prevented him from taking that active part which was most congenial to his disposition ; in the defensive plan he was never remarkably eminent.

NEGOCIATIONS for a peace were still continued between France and England ; at the same time the military operations were not in the least suspended. But the pacifick views of Lord Bute, who was now prime-minister at the court of London, gave a favourable opening to the French to make their advances, and they did not neglect the opportunity.

HOWEVER glorious it may be to consult the happiness of individuals by peace, it is a virtue scarcely expected from a nation flushed with conquest, unless the terms proposed are adequate to the state of their success. A propensity to peace, therefore, at this time, when advices from every quarter concurred to strengthen our interest and extend our power, is certainly among the inexplicable mysteries of state.

IN

IN Germany, where we had hitherto been hardest pressed, affairs put on a more promising aspect. The vigorous inflexibility of the Czarina had tended in the highest degree to perplex the affairs of our ally, the king of Prussia. This potentate was now no more. Peter III. her successor, was well disposed towards his Prussian majesty. Soon after his accession, he caused it to be declared to the Imperial, French, and Swedish ministers, resident at Petersburg, that he could not look, without extreme regret, on a war that had continued already six years; and, instead of tending towards a conclusion, was still gathering strength, with the effusion of much innocent blood: that he was desirous to put a stop to so great a calamity; and, in order to procure peace to his empire, which he esteemed the first law prescribed by God to sovereigns, that he was ready, on his part, to make a sacrifice of the conquests made by the arms of Russia in this war, in hopes that the respective powers, his allies, would concur with him in so salutary and necessary a measure.

THIS declaration was but little relished by the other belligerent powers. They saw the

probability of their strength being diminished without any advantages being secured. They all, indeed, testified their regard for peace; but it was for peace in a less unconditional manner than Peter had given reason to suppose would satisfy him; and in particular the King of Poland, as Elector of Saxony, implored the protection and assistance of his Czarish majesty, to procure an indemnification for the miseries to which his Electoral dominions had been subjected.

THE Emperor of Russia, finding that his pacifick sentiments and resolutions were not likely to be acceded to by his allies, with the advice of his council, determined to bring the business, as far as regarded himself, to a speedy decision: he agreed to an armistice with the King of Prussia, which was signed on the 16th of March, and which was to continue till the two courts of Petersburg and Berlin should make a farther determination. The effect of this suspension of arms extended a little farther; the Swedes followed the example of the sovereign of the Russias, and concluded a peace with his Prussian majesty on the 7th of April.

THE prospects of Frederick now began to brighten, in one quarter at least; but when the act of restitution was carrying into execution, by which the Czar was to resign the conquests made by the arms of Russia to Prussia, he was deposed by a conspiracy of his subjects, and in eight days after breathed his last. His consort was placed on the Imperial throne of Russia, by the appellation of Catherine II. and that country once more seemed to be recurring to the measures it had relinquished under the Emperor, and the prosecution of the war with Prussia was the favourite and popular determination of the new Empress. A manifesto was issued on the 16th of July, to compel the inhabitants of the conquered part of the Prussian dominions to swear allegiance to Catherine II.

BUT such is the instability of human resolution, and so numerous are the contingencies which affect it, that the very next day these orders were revoked; and her Czarish majesty confirmed all that had been proposed in favour of Prussia by the late emperor. Her majesty, on an examination of the correspondence between her deceased husband and the

King

King of Prussia, plainly discovered how much he had been her friend, in dissuading Peter from some very severe intentions he had proposed putting in execution against her: when she is said to have burst into tears of gratitude, and to have declared that she must be a monster, if she did not bear as much affection for the King of Prussia, as she had borne hatred before. This freed his majesty from the dread of hostilities on that side, and he was now at liberty to pursue his measures with the other confederates to procure an equal pacification.

THE allies opened the campaign of 1762 with very different prospects. However, the battle of Wilhelmstohl, in which the French were very severely handled, gave a favourable turn to their affairs. Several other engagements followed, with various success; and the surrender of Cassel, which happened on the 1st of November, concluded the operations of the campaign and of the war.

THE secession of the Russians from the enemies of his Prussian majesty was more serviceable to his cause than any victory: nevertheless, he had still opposition enough to encounter;

ter; and his finances were not in a situation to enable him to pursue very active measures. However, when he found that he had only his own bravery to depend on, he ordered Prince Henry to take the field in Saxony against the Imperialists, who were reinforced by a strong body of Austrians. His highness surprized the enemy's left wing at Dobeln, beat up their quarters, and forced them to retreat with the loss of 2000 men, some cannon, and a considerable magazine. But speedily recruiting their strength, by calling in their detachments, they gained several petty advantages over the Prussians.

IN the mean time, the king was anxiously waiting for a favourable opportunity of attacking Count Daun; who, since the defection of the Russians and Swedes, was become more circumspect than ever. However, his majesty commenced his operations by forcing the advanced posts of the Austrian right wing, which spread terror and alarm through their whole camp. He then laid siege to Schweidnitz, in defiance of Count Daun.

THE

THE King of Prussia sat down before that city on the 8th of August, determined to regain it, or perish in the attempt. The manner in which it was lost had sensibly affected him; and a spirit of revenge overcame every dictate of prudence. There was only one stratagem, by which the enemy could hope to draw the king from this siege. The Prince of Bevern was posted with a body of Prussians at Reichenbach; and Daun detached General Laudohn with a superior force to attack him. The design was discovered; the prince made a vigorous stand; and the king found means to turn it to the enemy's disadvantage. He drew off no more of his army than could be spared in the continuation of the siege; and with that draught he in person fell upon the Austrians, unexpectedly, in flank, when they presumed too much on the success of the day over the Prince of Bevern; and, after a short dispute, Laudohn was totally routed, with the loss of 2,400 men. Dispirited by this defeat, Daun took no other steps for the protection of Schweidnitz; and the garrison having lost all hopes of relief, proposed to capitulate. But his Prussian majesty would accept no other terms, than that they should surrender prisoners

ners of war. The governor, Count Guesco, rejected this proposal with the spirit of a brave man ; he declared he would defend the place to the last extremity ; and a terrible fire on both sides continued, with doubtful success, till the 8th of October, when a considerable breach being made by the springing of a mine, the governor immediately surrendered, with a garrison of 10,300 men. Thus the house of Brandenburg became possessed of Schweidnitz, and all its dependencies, by force of arms ; a place which had been several times wrested out of the king's hands, and as often retaken during the war.

THE confederates meditated to revenge this affront on Prince Henry. The Imperialists and Austrians in Saxony, were vastly superior to the prince's army, and exerted their whole art to surround them. The king was alarmed for his brother's safety ; and, as soon as matters were put in train at Schweidnitz, his majesty marched to his assistance. But Prince Henry acted the general so dextrously, that he not only escaped the snares laid for him by his enemies, but even reduced them to such a situation, that they were drawn into an une-

qual engagement at Freyburg; and, after a warm contest on both sides, victory declared in favour of the Prussians, who took 5000 prisoners, 30 pieces of cannon, and got possession of the town of Freyburg.

THIS was the concluding stroke of the Prussians: their enemies were too much damped by ill success to face them again in the field; and the bloody war in Germany terminated at last in favour of Frederick.

HE had maintained a conflict with the Austrians, Russians, Swedes, and Imperialists, for seven successive campaigns: he had often risen, like a phoenix, out of the ashes in which both his friends and enemies thought he was consuming; and at last, in spite of foes and selfish friends, to the astonishment of the whole world, he found himself in a condition to exact terms of a glorious and an honourable peace.

Soon after the glorious victory gained by Prince Henry over the Austrians and Imperialists in Saxony, a strong detachment of Prussians, under the command of General Kleist, made an irruption into Bohemia, where they raised

raised contributions, almost to the very gates of Prague, and destroyed several magazines of immense value.

AFFAIRS being in this situation, a suspension of arms was proposed by his Prussian majesty to the court of Vienna, between their respective armies in Saxony and Glatz, during winter; a proposal that was joyfully acceded to, though its object was more political than honourable: for no sooner had the king tied down the Austrian army, than he detached a large body of troops, under General Kleist, into Franconia and other states, where they exacted heavy contributions, and spread terror and alarm from the centre to the extremities of the Empire. The Austrian and Imperial troops had been distributed into winter-quarters; they did not dare to act without fresh instructions from the court of Vienna; and, before those instructions could be received, the Prussian hero had taken care to effect his full intentions. His minister was ordered to declare to the diet of the Empire—"That
" finding his remonstrances had failed, he
" was now resolved to employ more effectual
" means to make them recall their troops

“ from the Austrian army ; and was accor-
 “ dingly marching three different corps into
 “ the Empire, one of which had already
 “ entered Franconia, the second was taking
 “ the route of Swabia, and the third would
 “ pass through Bavaria: that they would
 “ every where conduct themselves according
 “ to the exigencies of the war; but, as to the
 “ diet of the Empire, the minister added,
 “ that he had orders to give assurance it should
 “ not suffer the least molestation.”

THIS declaration had the desired effect: the princes of the Empire, particularly those whose dominions were most exposed to the route of the Prussian armies, immediately proposed a neutrality, and recalled their troops; and in a short time the house of Austria found itself stripped of every ally, and left singly to oppose the King of Prussia, whose armies were now become vigorous and alert in proportion to the dejection and imbecillity of the enemy.

THUS the Prussian hero gained the superiority over his powerful inveterate enemy without the assistance or mediation of an ally;

and

and preserved it with such wisdom and good policy, that Austria was glad to accept his own terms of peace ; terms which were not trusted to the idle discussion of negociators, but dictated by himself, and ratified with his sword in hand.

By virtue of this pacification, which [was concluded at Hubertsburg, the King of Prussia was to have every country, province, and town, surrendered up and guarantied to him, which he possessed before the commencement of the war. In short, there was a mutual renunciation of all claims on each other's dominions and territories, and of all indemnification for damages suffered during the progress and continuance of the war.

HIS Prussian majesty having brought to such a fortunate conclusion a war unparalleled in history, immediately set about retrieving the ruin it had occasioned ; and, by wise and equitable regulations, soon brought his country to a state of prosperity it had never known before. Every trace of desolation was speedily obliterated ; and agriculture was as much prosecuted under his auspices now, as the art of war had been before.

BUT

BUT though peace is attended with the truest glory, because it tends to the happiness of the human race, it furnishes fewer transactions to record, and fewer examples of heroism; while, on the other hand, it develops the most valuable qualities of the heart, and shews if the man is as worthy of our love as the hero was of our admiration.

FROM the æra of the general pacification of 1763, we hear little of Frederick, as a warrior, till the year 1772.

THE flames of civil war had raged with uncommon violence, in the devoted kingdom of Poland, during three successive years: the very face of the country was changed; and many of the principal Polish families retired into foreign states, with such part of their property as could be removed. To these complicated evils was superadded that dreadful scourge the pestilence, which in 1770 spread through the provinces of Podolia, Volhinia, and the Ukraine, adjoining to Turkey; and is said to have swept off 250,000 persons. Meanwhile, some of the Polish confederates negotiated with the Turks for assistance against
their

their powerful oppressors; and a terrible war ensued against the Russians and Turks, on account of Poland, which the former had been called in to protect against the Dissidents, as they were called. In the year 1771, his Polish majesty very narrowly escaped assassination: he received two wounds on his head, one from a ball, the other from a sabre; and this horrid attempt was supposed to have been prompted by powers too mighty to be mentioned by a cotemporary historian.

THE following year, the plan which had for some time been concerting, began to be unfolded. The King of Prussia, the Empress Queen, and the Empress of Russia, entered into an alliance to divide and dismember the kingdom of Poland, in defiance of repeated treaties and personal declarations to the contrary.

THE three allied powers, acting in concert, set up their formal pretensions to the respective districts which they had allotted for and guaranteed each other. Polish Prussia, and some districts bordering on Brandenburg, were set apart for the King of Prussia; almost all
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the south-eastern parts of the kingdom bordering upon Hungary, were assigned to the Empress Queen of Hungary and Bohemia; and a large district of country about Mohilow, upon the banks of the Dnieper, was allotted for the Empress of Russia.

BUT though each of those powers pretended to have a legal title to the territories they claimed, and published manifestoes in vindication of their conduct; they, nevertheless, forced the Poles to call a new diet, and menaced them, that if they did not consent unanimously to sign a treaty for the ceding of those provinces to them respectively, the whole kingdom would be laid under military execution, and treated as a conquered state. In this extremity of distress, when opposition was in vain, several of the Polish nobility, rather than consent to an act which entailed ruin and disgrace on their country to the latest ages, became voluntary exiles; but the King of Poland was prevailed on, by the necessity of his condition, to sign this act, and many of his subjects followed the royal example.

WE will not pretend to extenuate the injustice of Frederick in this respect. In whatever light others may view his conduct on this occasion, we cannot help considering it as a flagrant violation of every sacred tie; an act of injustice and rapacity, which has only the union of other great powers to save it from deserved execration, and which even combination cannot legalize.

As early as the year 1771, the troops of his Prussian majesty entered Great Poland; and, during the space of that year, carried off from that and the neighbouring provinces at least 12,000 families! On the 29th of October, in the same year, an edict was published by the king, commanding every person, under the severest penalties, and even corporal punishment, to take in payment for forage, provisions, corn, and horses, the money offered by his troops and commissaries. This money was either silver bearing the impression of Poland, and exactly worth one-third of its nominal value; or ducats, struck in imitation of those of Holland, seventeen per cent. inferior to the genuine ones.

WITH this base money he bought up corn and forage, sufficient not only to supply his army for two whole years, but also to stock his magazines in the country itself, where the miserable inhabitants were obliged to come and re-purchase corn for their daily subsistence at an advanced price, and with good money.

HAVING stript the country of money and provisions, his next attempt was to thin it still more of it's inhabitants, and to people his own dominions at the expence of Poland. This had ever been his favourite object; and, as far as his own country was concerned, he acted with his usual patriotifm and policy. To effect this purpose, a new mode of contribution was invented. Every town and village was obliged to furnish a certain number of marriageable girls; the parents to give, as a portion, a feather-bed, four pillows, a cow, two hogs, and three ducats in gold. Some were bound hand and foot, and carried off as criminals. His exactions from the abbeys, convents, cathedrals, and nobles, were so heavy, and at last so much exceeded their abilities, that the priests abandoned their churches, and the nobles their lands.

lands. These exactions continued, with unabated rigour, till possession was taken of the usurped provinces; and then, however unjustly they might be acquired, it must be confessed, no pains nor expence was spared to improve and people them. Independent of the hardships they at first endured, the natives certainly were brought under a better form of government; they became subjects of a master who would not suffer others to injure them, and who was only severe while he considered them as aliens.

TRUTH obliges us also to record a flagrant violation of treaties, committed by his Prussian majesty, in regard to Dantzic.

DANTZIC is the capital of Polish Prussia, which, we have mentioned, was wrested from Poland, and assigned to Prussia. It is situated on the Vistula, five miles from the Baltic, and is large, handsome, and populous; and particularly celebrated in history as being the head of the Hanseatic Association. It is a republic, with a small adjacent territory, about forty miles round it, which were under the protection of

the king and republic of Poland, at the time the partition took place.

THIS city, as well as that of Thorn, was exempted by the King of Prussia from those claims which he made on the neighbouring countries; notwithstanding which, his majesty soon after thought proper to seize on it's territories, under pretence of their formerly having constituted part of Polish Prussia. He then proceeded to possess himself of the port duties belonging to the city; and erected a custom-house in the harbour, where he laid arbitrary and insupportable duties on all exports and imports.

To compleat the system of oppression, custom-houses were erected at the very gates of Dantzic, so that ingress and egress were impossible without a very strict scrutiny. Nevertheless, Dantzic had been comprehended in so many general and particular treaties; it's rights and liberties had been so frequently secured; and it had been guarantied by so many great powers, and by such a long and regular succession of public acts; that we are more surprized at the supineness of the other European

pean sovereigns, in tamely suffering this infraction of treaties, than at the ambition of Frederick, which prompted him to gain such a valuable appendage. The city of Thorn was likewise treated in a similar manner with Dantzic. Yet his Prussian majesty afterwards, in part, receded from the rigour of his usurpation on these two cities; and seemed at last contented to divide the power and revenues annexed to them.

THE Electoral House of Bavaria becoming extinct in 1778, the balance of power in Germany appeared to be in danger by the pretensions made and instituted by the court of Vienna to the Lower Bavaria. His Prussian majesty opposed those claims, not only with a view of maintaining the right of the Palatine House to the succession of all Bavaria, but also of supporting that equal balance of power which the safety of the German constitution seemed to require.

A WAR ensued; which, though marked with few brilliant exploits, was terminated in the most favourable manner for the views of his Prussian majesty, by the peace concluded
at

at Teschen in 1779: a peace which re-established the balance of Germany, by preserving to the Palatine House the succession of the greatest part of Bavaria, under the guaranty of two potent nations.

AT the commencement of the year 1785, new apprehensions were entertained respecting the balance of power in Germany, by a project started of exchanging Bavaria for the Netherlands. The King of Prussia, together with the Duke of Deux Ponts, insisted on the treaties of Teschen, and of Pavia, as well as on the balance of Germany, for irrefragable arguments against any alienation of Bavaria.

THE Imperial Court declared, by public memorials, that it had not the most distant intention of attempting to exchange Bavaria by force; while the principal members of the Palatine House affirmed on their side, that they would never consent to a voluntary exchange of Bavaria.

By this concurrence of singular circumstances, and of public and correspondent declarations, without any formal treaty, a new engagement

engagement took place, solemnly contracted by the principal parties interested, which seems to ensure the tranquillity of Germany for a long series of years to come. Nevertheless, the alarms and apprehensions which even the idea of a subversion of the balance of power occasioned, gave rise to the Constitutional Association, concluded at Berlin on the 23d of July, in the preceding year, between the Electors of Saxony, Brandenburg, and Brunswick; and which, in renewing the ancient connections of those illustrious contracting houses, is solely directed to the preservation of the constitutional system of the German Empire, and the possessions and privileges of all its members.

THIS association the King of Prussia caused to be communicated, by public declarations, to the courts of Europe and the Empire; and he had the satisfaction to find it was generally approved, and that many of the most considerable princes of Germany were forward to join it.

THIS was one of the last public negotiations of his Prussian majesty; and it is, perhaps, one of the most glorious. By it he rendered

dered the most essential services to humanity, to all Europe, and especially to Germany, by establishing it's general repose, it's balance, and security; and by dissipating it's alarms and misunderstandings without war, and without the effusion of blood, by the calm and rational acts of representation and explanation, by foresight, wisdom, and firmness. The completion of this scheme will immortalize his name more than his most splendid victories; it will render it precious to posterity, and secure a crown of civic and eternal laurels:

It will also reflect additional glory on the King of Prussia, if it be considered, that this great work was originally conceived, promoted, and afterwards compleated by himself; that he undertook the dangerous part, which was the result of it, in the 74th year of his age, and when his health was impaired by a long and an active reign; that, at the same time, he took a part no less active in the other general affairs of Europe, and especially in the very intricate affairs of Holland, adopting every possible measure for the re-establishment of union, confidence, and internal peace in that unhappy republic. This last was the only object of importance

importance he had in view, that he did not live to execute; and his successor appears to have been equally unsuccessful.

HAVING detailed the principal exploits and transactions of Frederick in the capacity of a warrior and negociator, let us now attend for a while to that admirable military discipline he either perfected or introduced into the Prussian armies; a discipline which no other nation ever attained, and which enabled this warlike monarch to conquer often by the terror of it's name.

THE Prussian armies generally amount to 200,000 men, which are divided into three classes, field regiments, garrison regiments, and free battalions. The first of these classes comprehends all the regiments of cavalry, known by the appellation of field regiments, and likewise the cuirassiers, dragoons, hussars, and the four regiments of artillery. The second class is composed of such regiments as are usually employed in garrison duty; and, when led into the field, are stationed in the rear of the army. The third class consists of regiments which are suddenly raised on any
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emergency, and of course are less to be depended on than the rest. These are commonly employed in guarding the advanced posts, and at the termination of a war they are usually disbanded.

THE field infantry is divided into foot guards, marching regiments, fusileers, and grenadiers. The foot guards form three battalions; the first is independent of the rest, and has a distinct and splendid uniform. It is recruited from the different regiments, and is composed of the tallest men in the army. The captains possess the rank of major; the first lieutenants of captain. This battalion is constantly garrisoned at Potsdam, and has seldom taken the field since the battle of Kolin, in Bohemia, in which it was almost entirely cut to pieces.

THE second and third battalions wear the same uniform; and, when called into action, compose only one regiment, which is entrusted to the command of the senior officer of the whole.

THE marching regiments are distinguished from the fusileers only by their wearing hats, instead

instead of the small grenadier caps of the latter. All the regiments of fusileers were levied by Frederick III. The field regiments of artillery are composed in the same manner as the others.

THE garrison regiments, as they are usually called, are likewise divided into infantry, fusileers, and artillery. The number of battalions in each regiment varies from two to four. In some of these corps, foreign recruits are always initiated, and afterwards drafted into the field regiments. In the seven years war, these garrison troops composed the principal part of the army which was commanded by Prince Henry; and they were generally intended to act on the defensive. However, with a very small proportion of other troops, they enabled that prince to gain the battle of Freyburg: an action that his own heroism tempted him to risk, expressly contrary to the king's intentions.

THE garrison artillery are distributed in different towns and fortresses, and the direction of it is intrusted to the commanding officer of the regiment in each respective garrison. There

are no town-officers in Prussia, except when the garrison is numerous, as in Berlin, Madgeburg, and Koningsburg: in these are town-majors and adjutants.

A GENERAL officer is appointed to every regiment in the service, under whom are three staff-officers, frequently of equal rank; in which case they rank by seniority. The general and each of the staff officers have their respective companies, commanded by a captain-lieutenant.

THE generals have an income of nearly 3000 crowns a year, exclusive of perquisites: the second in command receives about 50 crowns a month, over and above his company; but the appointment of the other two staff-officers are wholly arbitrary, depending entirely on the king's pleasure; so that a major sometimes is infinitely better paid than his colonel.

INDEED, his late majesty seemed to have a predilection for majors, in preference to colonels or lieutenant-colonels; so that some regiments had no colonel, but only three majors, or two majors and a lieutenant-colonel.

This

This plan is said to have originated from a facility it gave his majesty in exchanging prisoners during his long war.

THERE is also a considerable corps of staff-officers, under the appellation of quarter-masters: they are of different ranks, but are generally persons of merit.

FREDERICK likewise maintained aid-de-camps of different ranks, who belonged to no particular regiment. This was the first capacity in which foreign officers were generally employed on first entering the service, which gave his majesty an opportunity of forming some estimate of their merit and abilities, before they were promoted to more responsible and important stations.

EXCLUSIVE of these, there were a vast number of supernumerary officers of different ranks, who were not connected with any particular corps; all of whom, as well as the quarter-masters and aid-de-camps, were obliged to reside at Potsdam, where a table was furnished for them at the king's expence.

DURING

DURING peace, it has been usual to distribute the horses, belonging to the army, among the farmers in particular districts, who are at the expence of their maintenance; but are allowed the privilege of employing them in agriculture. However, should any accident happen to a horse, while under the care of the farmers, they are obliged to compensate the loss.

THE corps of engineers is constantly in garrison at Potsdam: it is chiefly composed of foreigners, and is less respectable than any other in the service. Indeed, Frederick did not appear to entertain any very high opinion of the utility of this body; or, at least, he was by no means choice in his selection of persons whom he admitted into it. The pay is not very considerable, and their abilities are said to be extremely limited. The highest rank in this service is a colonel; the subordinate officers are generally such as misfortunes, or a spirit of adventure, have driven from their native countries.

HOWEVER, the field artillery in Prussia is on an excellent footing, and its utility certainly demands attention. It consists of four
regiments,

regiments, of two battalions each, and twelve hundred men to each battalion.

EXCLUSIVE of these four regiments, there is another corps of artillery, consisting of 600 horsemen, usually garrisoned at Potsdam. The pieces are small and short, and are drawn by four strong horses with speed and facility.

THE corps of miners consists of 1200 men, divided into four companies, independent of each other. Three of these were old companies; the fourth was added by Frederick III. The command of each company brings in about 3000 crowns a year to the captain; and the whole corps is said to be well appointed.

ALL the troops are new clothed every year; the old suit is turned, and mended, to be worn in common; and the men are likewise allowed a working dress, consisting of a jacket and breeches. In winter the breeches are woollen, in summer linen.

THE infantry wear blue coats, with white waistcoats and breeches, excepting the guards, who have buff-coloured waistcoats and breeches.

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The regiments are distinguished by the different colours of their facings, and by the trimmings of the officers coats; for their waistcoats are always plain. The officers uniform of the foot guards is very magnificent; even that of the common men is rich.

THE aid de camps, and the supernumerary officers, who belong to no particular regiment, wear blue coats, faced with red, and embroidered with silver, with buff-coloured waistcoats and breeches. This, however, is their grand uniform, in which they appear only on particular occasions; their usual dress being quite plain. General officers are distinguished by a white plume in their hats.

THE whole battalion of guards have white spatterdashies: all the rest of the infantry wear black ones.

THE grenadiers and fusileers have caps, on the front of which is a copper-plate, charged with the arms of Prussia. These caps are extremely shallow in the crown, and consequently kept on with difficulty: the hats of the field infantry are liable to the same inconvenience.

venience. The cavalry wear prodigious large hats, for which singularity it is not easy to account.

THE firelock, in use among the infantry, is very heavy and short; on the other hand, the bayonet is of great length; and this, with the cylindrical ram-rod introduced by the late king, makes the firelock extremely cumbersome, the end of the barrel being much heavier than the breech.

THE Prussian infantry are furnished with small broad swords; and their cartouch-boxes contain about sixty rounds of ammunition. Besides the sword, the officers are armed with a spontoon, the shaft of which is 13 or 14 feet long. The serjeants halberts are 16 feet long; but these weapons are hardly in sufficient number to answer the purpose of their destination. The divisions in battle are closed at right and left by serjeants, who occasionally lock their halberts together, and by this means inclose their platoons, so that the soldier cannot escape, and is obliged to fight.

THE field officers, as well as the generals, are always mounted on horseback, and command sword in hand.

EVERY regiment of infantry and fusileers consists of two battalions, like the artillery; each battalion of six companies, one of which is composed of grenadiers. Each company consists of two hundred men, eighty of whom are foreigners, the rest natives. The former are strictly confined to their garrisons, so that desertion is extremely difficult. As soon as a soldier is missing from a garrison, his desertion is announced to the adjacent country, by a discharge of cannon, and parties are instantly dispatched after him, in different directions. If a peasant receives him into his cottage, a severe punishment awaits the discovery; but if he brings him back to the garrison, he is amply rewarded.

THE native Prussians who enter the army experience more indulgence; the greater number of them being allowed to spend ten months in the year at home, from the first of June till the first of April, employed in agriculture, or such trades and occupations as may suit their

their genius or convenience. These men, generally amounting to an hundred from each company, are obliged to leave their new uniform, their arms and accoutrements, with the regiment; and their pay, during the ten months absence, is carried to the regimental chest, and disposed of at the king's pleasure. However, it is usually bestowed in gratuities to the most zealous and active captains in the respective regiments: but part is applied to defray the expence of recruiting foreigners.

As for the national recruits, they are attended with no expence; every one of the king's subjects, the nobility alone excepted, being destined to the service from their cradle, and obliged to wear a badge for this purpose.

THE Prussian dominions are divided into a certain number of cantons, or districts, each of which is obliged to raise a certain number of men. Not only each regiment, therefore, but each company of a regiment, has it's particular district; and, at the age of sixteen, every peasant, mechanic, merchant, or citizen, has his name inserted in the war list of his canton, and is obliged, when called on, to join the

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regiment,

regiment or company belonging to that district: for it is very seldom, unless on extraordinary occasions, that persons enrolled in one canton are assigned to the corps of another.

WHEN any regiment or company, therefore, is in want of fresh men, to supply the place of such as are dead, or dismissed from the service, a field officer, commonly the major of the regiment, goes into the canton, and selects the number necessary to supply the deficiency. This business is conducted in a very impartial manner; the subjects pitched on being always such as are best adapted for the service, and least wanted at home. Among the peasantry, the eldest son is usually exempted from the military vocation, that he may be trained up to agriculture; and, when a farmer has only one son, it seldom happens that he is forced into the army, unless his person renders him particularly desirable; for stature and make are considered as essentials in a Prussian soldier.

THESE natural recruits pass an entire year of probation with their regiments, that they may
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be compleatly instructed in the manual exercise. After that period they are allowed to return home, like the rest of the men; and when they have attained the age of forty, they are permitted to quit the service; an indulgence never granted to foreigners, who have no prospect of a discharge before they are disabled by length of years, or the pressure of disease.

A CERTAIN number of officers are monthly dispatched from each regiment into their respective districts, to enquire into the behaviour of the soldiers who are absent, and to receive the reports of the magistrates on this subject, to inspect the horses belonging to the army, and to see that the farmers keep them in a proper condition for service on any emergency.

THROUGHOUT the Prussian dominions, every branch of the military department, even the most minute and apparently trifling article, is attended to with such exactitude and unremitting attention, from the sovereign down to the common soldier, that, in the short space of four or five days, a numerous army
may

may be assembled, and ready to take the field, without the different regiments who are to compose it being at all in the secret till they reach the place of rendezvous.

IN the Electorate of Brandenburg, the troops are so judiciously disposed in the several garrisons, that, within the space of eight days, they may be collected on the frontiers of Saxony, and they have even in that time passed the Elbe, and penetrated into that country. It is the same in Silesia, and in Glatz ; so that it is possible for an invasion to have taken place in the Austrian territories, before the court of Vienna could be apprized of the Prussian army being in motion. Similar arrangements are adopted in every part of the Prussian dominions; the good effects of which are always visible on the commencement of a war; and while they continue, this power will ever be formidable to it's neighbours. But though only about an hundred men of each company are permitted to return to their homes, of the remaining hundred, eighty of whom are always foreigners, the captains are allowed to exempt thirty or forty, and sometimes more, from duty, that they may subsist by their own industry. In
such

such cases, their pay always goes into the captain's pocket ; but should any of them be employed out of the garrison, a privilege allowed only to natives, he is obliged to procure other men in their stead, should they happen to desert. The foreigners are only permitted to work within the walls of a town: they are obliged to appear at roll-call, to sleep every night in their quarters, and to be under arms, when required. Hence it is obvious, that the native Prussian army is, in fact, a well-regulated militia: during the months of April and May, they are strictly disciplined; the remainder of the year they are at liberty to provide for themselves, and to live with their families and friends. This at once lessens the expence of government, and adds to the national utility: the labour of so many men is favourable to agriculture and the arts; and they equally serve for public protection, and private advantage.

A VULGAR prejudice has been disseminated over Europe, that the Prussian soldier is incessantly under the discipline of the cane; but those who have had the best opportunities of authentic information, contradict this as an
erroneous

erroneous report. It is indeed allowed, that in Prussia, as well as in other parts of Germany, whenever a soldier trespasses, he is punished with some strokes of a cane, or a broad sword, according to the different customs of different corps; but the infliction of this punishment does not depend on the caprice of a subaltern or serjeant, the number of strokes being limited, and proportioned to the offence committed. This correction speedily and publicly inflicted, has certainly a very salutary effect. Chains and imprisonments, in this country, are employed only for criminals. But neither the cane nor the broad sword are used during the general exercise; they are only allowed when a regiment performs it's exercise singly. In the general exercise, should a soldier prove defective in his duty or attention, he is noticed by some officer present, and sent back to practise with the recruits. To this mark of disgrace punishments are generally superadded.

IN the first battalion of guards, the soldier is punished by the stroke of a broad sword, repeated according to the nature of his offence; and this is inflicted by a subaltern officer. In the

the rest of the guards, as well as in all the different corps of cavalry, the same correction is administered by a serjeant, in the presence of the officer who enjoins it. In every other regiment of the army, caning is the consequence of neglect, but never without the order of an officer.

WHEN a serjeant belonging to any corps is to be punished, it is with a broad-sword, and by the hands of a subaltern officer. If the serjeant, as is sometimes the case, happens to be of noble extraction, the punishment consists of four strokes of a broad sword across his shoulders, inflicted by the commanding officer of the regiment. None above the rank of serjeants are punished in this manner, but are sent to the guard-house; and, when their offence is considerable, the commanding officer must notify it to the sovereign.

IN Prussia, the military instruction is very methodical. When a recruit is first brought to a regiment, he is placed under the care of a serjeant, who teaches him how to walk, and the use of his firelock; and he is likewise daily inspected

by an officer, whose business it is to observe that he be properly instructed.

FOR some days he is treated with great lenity, and every allowance is made for his natural timidity and awkwardness; his duty is patiently and repeatedly explained to him; and, if his attention to improvement appears equal to the pains used with him, he is not subjected to any great severity. But should he be inattentive, or perversely awkward, he is soon taught to feel the consequence of it: for it seems a leading principle in the Prussian military system, to render the private men perfectly tractable, to deprive them of any will of their own, and make them entirely subservient to their superiors. In a word, they are taught to be as immovable as statues, when so desired; and to be relentless as their musquets.

WHEN the young recruit has acquired the first principles with precision, he is exercised with the other recruits of the same company, twice a day in summer, and once in winter, by a lieutenant, the captain himself usually attending to assist, and select such as are sufficiently

ficiently instructed, that they may be incorporated with the company, and exercised with the rest of the battalion.

WHEN the young soldier has passed through all these gradations of discipline, and it is known what he can perform, he is now given to understand, that the least neglect of duty will be punished with severity; and indeed so strictly is this menace observed, that, in the exercise of the battalions, even an unavoidable accident, the dropping of a bayonet, the falling off of a hat, or even sneezing or coughing, is punished with caning. This may appear hard and tyrannical; but, by a strict adherence to this rigorous discipline, accidents seldom happen. An old officer observed to a foreigner, one day, at Potsdam—" *Nos soldats*
" a present ne toussent pas si souvent qu' au-
" tre fois.—Our soldiers do not cough so
 " often now as formerly."

ON the first day of every month, the captain receives the pay of his company, and distributes it himself to the men, in equal proportions, every five days. In the first battalion of guards, the soldier's pay for five days

amounts to fifteen gros, or two shillings and nine pence sterling: the second and third battalions of guards, the artillery, miners, and all the grenadiers of the army, receive twelve gros; the rest of the infantry only eight. However, it must be observed, that, exclusive of their pay, all the troops have an allowance of bread; and, in a country like Prussia, where provisions are cheap, the subsistence is at least on an equality with that of other European nations.

THE Prussian cavalry has been brought to an astonishing degree of excellence; principally owing to the indefatigable attention of Frederick, who spared no labour or expence to render them perfect in discipline, and respectable in appearance. This part of the army is divided into horse-guards, gens d'armes, carabineers, cuirassiers, dragoons, hussars, and bosniacs.

THE horse-guards consist only of a single regiment of light-horse, composed of three squadrons; the gens d'armes consist of ten; the carabineers and cuirassiers of four squadrons each. In all the different corps of cavalry,

valry, the squadron consists of two hundred men; and each regiment, like the rest of the army, has it's particular canton. The regiments of dragoons, like the cuirassiers, consist of five squadrons each, two only excepted, which have ten; those of hussars and bosniacs in general consist of ten. In the body-guards, carabineers and cuirassiers, each squadron is subdivided into two companies of an hundred men each. In the dragoons, hussars, and bosniacs, there is no division of the squadrons into companies.

THE pay of the common men in the cavalry is about two gros, or three pence sterling a day; the serjeants, as is usual likewise in the infantry, receive an additional gros. In each squadron sixty-four foreigners are admitted; the rest is composed of native Prussians, a majority of which is dispersed at home in their respective districts, during ten months in the year, in the same manner as the infantry. The emoluments of the officers of cavalry are somewhat more considerable than in the infantry.

THE horse-guards, gens d'armes, carabineers, and cuirassiers, all wear the same uniform—a light buff-coloured coat; a jacket, edged with silk or lace; and buckskin breeches. The different regiments are distinguished by the different colours of their buttons, and the facings of their coats. The hats of the cavalry are enormously large; the king himself always wore one of the same kind.

THE cuirassiers are provided with an iron breast-plate, musquet-proof; and the crowns of their hats are likewise lined with steel. Their arms consist of a musquetoon, pistols, and a long straight broad-sword. When called into action, they only use their broad-swords, with which they do amazing execution, owing to their vast activity, and the inconceivable precision with which all their evolutions are performed.

THE uniform of the dragoons is a light blue coat, white waistcoat, and buckskin breeches. The different regiments are distinguished by their buttons. These troops, strictly speaking, can only be said to have the appellation of dragoons, as they never fight on foot,
and

and are, in fact, only light horse. The rest of the cavalry are exercised both on horseback and on foot.

THE hussars wear uniforms of different colours, but all made in the Hungarian taste. One regiment is clothed in a dark brown cloth, approaching nearly to black: this corps is distinguished by the name of Black Hussars, and all the men have a Death's head imprinted on the front of their caps; besides which, the standards of the regiments are ornamented with the same tremendous insignia. The bosniacs are dressed in the Polish mode.

EVERY corps, whether infantry, artillery, or cavalry, have their respective garrisons and fixed quarters, which they never quit in time of peace, except during the grand manœuvres. The officers are also under the obligation of constant residence with their regiments; and must have the king's special permission to be absent, which is not very readily granted, and never for more than six weeks or two months at a time. Officers of every rank, from the general to the serjeant, are all equally obliged

obliged to submit to this regulation. The effect of this restriction is, that the Prussian officers are grave in their deportment, and confined in their ideas. By an uniform course of discipline, they are, in general, brought to imagine, that to stand firm and steady, march erect, wheel to the right and left, and charge and discharge a firelock, if not the sole use of human beings, is at least the most momentous purpose of their creation; and the king seemed to have no desire that they should reason on a higher scale, which might lead them to despise their daily avocations of drilling soldiers, counting the buttons of their coats, and examining the minutiae of dress and propriety: for though some acquaintance with other studies, and opportunities of mixing with polished society, might render them more agreeable men, it would by no means give them superior merit in the capacity of captain, lieutenant, or adjutant.

BUT, notwithstanding the confined notions of the generality of the Prussian officers, his majesty always found a sufficient number of men of more enlarged ideas, to fill the higher departments, and undertake principal and particular

ticular commands. He sedulously watched for particular exceptions; and the moment he perceived the dawning of uncommon genius, how humble soever the sphere of it's possessor, he transplanted him to that situation which was deemed most advantageous for the display of his abilities.

SUCH is the acknowledged superiority of the Prussian discipline, that the other European nations have, for a number of years, bore the most incontestible evidence to it's merits, by endeavouring to transfuse it's spirit into their own armies. But, to acquire it in any perfection, demands a monarch as active and attentive as Frederick was. Others have begun with eagerness, but new objects have soon diverted their attention; they have delegated the office to a commander in chief, and he has again entrusted it to one of inferior rank, till at length a total relaxation has pervaded the whole system, and they have ended where they began. But the perseverance of the King of Prussia, as it was unparalleled, so it was attended with unparalleled consequences.

THAT degree of exertion which a man of a vigorous mind is alone capable of making on some very important occasion, the Prussian hero uniformly maintained for a series of years, without suffering pleasure, indolence, or disappointment, to interrupt his plan for a single day; and as he obliged every officer, in the various departments, to adopt his example to the utmost of his strength and ability; it is easy to conceive the propriety, the exactitude, and the alertness, with which every military manœuvre was performed.

INDEED, the Prussian reviews, which have long attracted the notice of all Europe, were a striking proof of extraordinary attention in the monarch, and of merit in the soldiers. The first military nobility of surrounding nations thought it an honour to be permitted to behold those brilliant spectacles; and even departed impressed with the most exalted ideas of the military grandeur of this country, which others have envied, but could not imitate.

NOTWITHSTANDING a life of unremitted fatigue, of mental and bodily exertion, Frederick

derick reached his 75th year, with faculties unimpaired, and with resolution undiminished. For some months previous to his dissolution, his constitution had gradually yielded to the pressure of age and disease. At last the awful moment came which proved him to be mortal: he had fallen into repeated fits of lethargy for two days preceding the 17th of August 1786; and at last he expired at three o'clock in the morning of that day, having reigned forty-six years, two months, and seventeen days.

A FEW hours afterwards, this melancholy event was publicly announced to the garrison of Berlin by the governor, (the gates being shut) who, at the same time, caused the oaths of allegiance to his successor to be tendered to the different regiments in garrison.

THE funeral obsequies were performed on the 9th of September, with all that splendor which awaits deceased royalty, and was in this instance certainly due to transcendent merit. The confluence, not only of natives, but also of foreigners, was immense. The church in which the royal remains were deposited was entirely hung with black; and on six columns

were paintings in grey, representing the conquests in Silesia; the war sustained by his majesty against six sovereigns, from 1756 to 1763; the embellishments of the towns, and the cultivation of waste lands, throughout the Prussian dominions; the taking possession of West Prussia; the late German confederacy; and, lastly, the protection granted, during the late reign, to the arts and sciences. Six trophies were also erected within the church, on which were inscribed the names of the twelve principal battles of the deceased Frederick; viz. Molwitz, Czaflaw, Sorr, Hoenfriedberg, Kesselsdorff, Lowositz, Prague, Rosbach, Leuthen, Zorndorff, Lignitz, and Torgau. The ceremony was over in the space of two hours; and all that was mortal of Frederick III. (or II. as he seems erroneously to be called) was consigned to corruption, amidst the tears of his subjects, and the eulogiums of strangers.

ENOUGH has been said of his wars, and of that military establishment and discipline which rendered him so remarkably successful in their prosecution. We now turn to milder scenes; to the contemplation of the king in private life; to a review of his paternal exertions for the
happiness

happiness of his subjects; and to a recital of some well authenticated anecdotes, which convey a better knowledge of the most striking traits of his character, than logical deductions, or general narrative, could bestow.

FREDERICK III. who filled the Prussian throne for near half a century, was unquestionably one of the greatest men that ever adorned the regal dignity. He might truly be said to have governed by himself, independent of ministers; for the persons on whom he conferred state appellations, acted only as amanuenses to copy out his orders, or as heralds to publish them to his subjects. It was he who regulated and gave directions on every subject relative either to political or military affairs, to finances, legislation, or commerce. He was at once the general and inspector of his troops, the financier and superintendant of the revenues.

IN whatever point of view he can be considered, as a gallant commander, a legislator, a man of letters, a philosopher, a poet, this prince must be allowed by the whole world to have possessed all those brilliant qualities which
pave

pave the way to fame and power, and give lustre and stability to their acquisition. He was bold in his projects; and his success in their execution might in general be with justice ascribed to the sagacity with which they were planned, and the address with which they were conducted. In the field, he maintained a superiority by a skilful judgment in the selection of posts, as well as in drawing up his army for battle. His personal courage was above impeachment; when necessary, he charged at the head of his troops, and animated them by his example more than by his command.

THIS made him the object of adoration to his soldiers, and of terror to such officers as were less disposed to an imitation of his bravery. At the same time, he enjoyed the supreme advantage of being able to depend on the discipline and regularity of his men, whom he had trained to every manœuvre that could strike his enemies with dread, or turn the doubtful scale in his own favour. But it was in offensive war that his vast superiority was most eminently displayed: he had too much of the hero in his composition to submit to the
cautious

cautious maxims of defensive operations; and, notwithstanding his amazing penetration and just conception of things, had he himself ceased to conquer, it is probable he might have been easily overcome.

HIS majesty spoke almost all the modern languages with fluency and grace. He was likewise well versed in most of the sciences; and appeared to be as much divested of every kind of illiberal prejudice as any person that ever lived. He appreciated mankind by what he found them, not by the testimony which others chose to produce concerning them.

By nature frugal, he was nevertheless occasionally munificent: he rewarded liberally, though rarely; and, in an eminent degree, possessed the happy talent of attaching persons to his interest, by the splendid bait he held out for them, rather than by a lavishment of favours.

HIS Prussian majesty was about five feet six inches high; a size which is generally considered as below the common stature. In his youth, his countenance had an agreeableness which charmed, while it commanded respect; his eyes were blue, and full of vivacity;

city; his voice was musical and fine; and his general deportment manly and polite. He was extremely well made; of a strong and healthy constitution, which was improved by mental and corporeal application from his tender years. The enervating power of grandeur had never been able to vanquish him before he was called to the cares of government; and, after he became a king, his activity was too conspicuous to leave a shadow of a doubt of his maintaining a perfect exemption from luxurious indulgences.

IN his old age he stooped considerably, and generally inclined his head to one side; yet there was still a striking dignity in his appearance, and his eyes retained their expressive quickness and fire. He was usually dressed in a plain suit of regimentals, and boots: his uniform consisted of a blue coat, faced with red, and a yellow waistcoat and breeches. As he was a great œconomist in dress, his cloaths were frequently wore threadbare; and the only badge of distinction he assumed was the order of the Black Eagle. On grand festivals, he appeared in an embroidered suit of blue velvet; which, though said to be upwards

wards of twenty years old, at his death, retained all the gloss of youth; so sparingly had it been used. This superb suit, (for so it may be called when compared with the rest) and two or three suits of regimentals, composed his whole wardrobe: a wardrobe which was given to an old servant, and having been exhibited in Paris as a singular curiosity, has repaid it's original purchase a thousand fold.

His hair, in his younger days, was of a fine dark chesnut colour, and to the last day of his existence was worn in a queue carelessly twisted into a single buckle at the sides. His hat, which appeared immoderately large for a person of his size, was always put on obliquely; and his boots, which were often rusty with age, depended in wrinkles about his ankles. But, notwithstanding the disadvantages of dress, it has been universally allowed, that few ever made a more military appearance on horseback than Frederick: the king and the warrior were always manifestly conspicuous; and if he did not aspire to the distinctions of apparel, which sovereigns in general think essential, it was probably because he was con-

scious of inherent dignity to command respect, and that a conformity to general custom would destroy that discrimination of character from other kings which it was his glory and his ambition to support.

He seemed to pay as little regard to personal cleanliness as he did to dress. He used an immoderate quantity of Spanish snuff, the marks of which were often conspicuous on his waistcoat and breeches. This may be said to be the only luxury he allowed himself; and the most splendid thing he carried about his person was a large gold snuff-box, the lid ornamented with diamonds.

THE uniformity of his private life was very remarkable. He constantly rose at four o'clock in summer, and five in winter; and in dressing certainly spent as little time as the meanest of his subjects could have done. However, he made no alteration during the day; his boots stood ready at his bed-side; a footman combed out his hair, and shaved him; and he was then equipped for business.

IMMEDIATELY as his majesty had dressed, the adjutant of the first battalion of guards brought him a written list of all the persons who had either arrived at Potsdam, or departed from it; at the same time remarking any occurrence in the garrison.

THE king having delivered his orders to this officer, retired into an inner cabinet, where he employed himself, without suffering interruption, till seven o'clock; when he passed into another apartment to drink chocolate, his usual breakfast. Here all the letters addressed to him from different parts of his dominions had been previously placed, on a particular table; the foreign letters on another. After reading this correspondence, he wrote notes or hints in the margins of such letters as his secretaries were to answer; and then returning into the inner cabinet, carried with him such as he intended to write or dictate an answer to himself; and here he was employed till nine, with one of his private secretaries. He then returned into the former apartment, where three secretaries had been engaged in the business left for their management: each gave an account to his majesty

of what he had done; after which he gave them their final orders respecting the correspondence. However, not a single letter was dispatched till it had been read and signed by the king.

AT ten, the generals who were about his person, and they all received that honour in rotation, attended him in his closet, where his majesty conversed with them on occasional topicks, politicks, tacticks, and other incidental subjects; and here he gave audience to such persons as had received previous notice of admission.

ON the stroke of eleven, his majesty got on horseback; and three days in the week visited the parade, where he saw the guard relieved, giving the word of command himself, and remaining till the troops had filed off.

IN the summer months, several regiments marched twice a week to a small distance from Potsdam, where the king attended and exercised them in person, for a space seldom exceeding an hour: for in Prussia the soldier is not embarrassed with useless manœuvres, and fanciful evolutions.

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ON the intermediate days, his majesty used to ride through the streets of Potsdam, attended only by a single page and an aid-du-camp, inspecting the buildings which were carried on there by his order, and observing if the business was properly conducted. In fine weather, these visits were frequently performed on foot: so little was Frederick possessed with the idle spirit of ostentation; and so little apprehensive was he of losing the respect due to a king, by condescending to appear like a man. Insignificant grandeur seeks retirement and parade, because it is conscious it stands in need of them to screen it from inspection; true magnanimity despises such troublesome restraints, and depends on itself alone.

THIS airing being over, the king returned to Sans Souci, where he found his generals, and the rest of the company, whom he had invited to dinner. If the weather was propitious, he amused himself in the garden with his company; but, when otherwise, their walk was confined to the great gallery. After this, his majesty retired, for about a quarter of an hour,

hour, to his cabinet ; and then returning to his guests, placed himself at table.

THE dinner was regularly served up at one o'clock. It usually consisted of eight dishes, exclusive of the soup and the bouilli, only one dish of which was served up at a time. His majesty always did the honours of the table himself ; helped his guests like a private gentleman, and never asked the assistance of a carver. Of the eight dishes, four were dressed in the French, and four in the Italian taste ; the other two according to the king's own particular palate. The dessert generally consisted of three glasses of dried sweetmeats, some plates of creams, blancmange, and similar dainties ; and six of different sorts of fruit, the choicest and the most delicious that could be procured ; for, if Frederick could with propriety be called an epicure in any respect, it was in his fondness of fruit.

HIS majesty indulged in the pleasures of the table for a considerable time, seldom rising from table till half past three, and not till he had drank a bottle of Burgundy, and some glasses

glasses of Champagne. During this interval, he conversed in the most unreserved manner with the gentlemen around him; for none were ever admitted to these private parties who were not entirely in the sovereign's favour. Strangers very seldom had the honour of an invitation to dinner; and never but when there was a court, which was by no means frequent,

WHEN his majesty rose from table, he withdrew into another apartment, where coffee was served up, and where he found those who had been previously ordered to attend him; it being an invariable etiquette, that no person, not even his ministers, should visit Sans Souci, the usual royal residence, without a command. Foreign ambassadors were always under the necessity of applying by letter, when desirous of an audience; and so was every person, on either public or private business. The letters were duly answered, and the time fixed, when his majesty was disposed to see them: if no answer was returned, it was deemed equivalent to a refusal.

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AT five o'clock public concerns were entirely dismissed; and the king retired to his closet, where he found his private secretaries ready with answers to all the letters delivered to their care in the morning. These he read, and frequently corrected; after which he signed them, and at six o'clock precisely they were sealed and dispatched.

THE business of the day might now be said to be totally finished. The king then entered the music-room, where a concert, in which his majesty sometimes assisted on the flute, was performed. No person was admitted to this entertainment except the general officers, who had apartments at Sans-Souci, or such as his majesty was pleased to invite. The concert lasted till seven; after which, during summer, and in favourable weather, the king amused himself in his gardens till eight, when he always retired.

DURING the winter season, instead of walking after the concert, it was his usual mode to hear a page read some new work; or to take the book, and read aloud himself

self for about half an hour, when he withdrew to his bed-chamber.

A cook then brought him the bill of fare for next day's dinner; and the king having made the wished-for alterations, returned it, not unfrequently with severe reflections on the roguery of his domesticks. The whole expences of his household were settled once a month, under his own immediate inspection; a practice which was commendable in a king, and in a subject may be esteemed essential to sound policy and strict justice.

THESE domestic arrangements being finished, his majesty undressed, and got into bed. The pomp of attendance never disturbed his rest: he did not even keep a guard at Sans Souci; only four men, with a corporal, were dispatched from Potsdam about six in the evening, one of whom was placed centinel at the door of the palace; and the whole corps returned again at four in the morning. Despotick monarchs are generally more cautious of their persons; but, while the happiness and protection of his subjects were the ruling principles that determined all his actions, what had

Frederick to fear ! and who, for a moment, could indulge even a wish to his prejudice ?

SUCH is his history for a day ; and, except on extraordinary occasions, it may suffice for a just picture of his life for years. He detested every species of gaming, and the diversions of the field were never allowed to rank among his pleasures.

HIS majesty never kept any of the great officers of the crown near his person. Two pages, two equerries, four assistant equerries, four footmen, and an heyduc, (a person of the highest trust in the whole suite) composed his entire household. When he travelled on horseback, he was seldom attended by more than three persons ; and he neither kept a coach or any other carriage at Sans Souci, nor ever used these vehicles at all except in the decline of his life, and then only on long journies.

FREDERICK used to review his troops twice a year : they were collected into corps in each province, and passed through the military manœuvres in his majesty's presence. But the most brilliant reviews were at Berlin, in a plain near Charlottenburg, where the king usually

usually resided during their continuance. However, the grand manœuvres annually performed at Potsdam about the month of September, as they exhibited the most capital movements of war, have obtained the greatest degree of celebrity among foreign nations.

THE king's usual residence, for seven or eight months in the year, was at Sans Souci. The entire month of November, and part of December, were spent at Potsdam. Berlin was seldom honoured with his presence, except during the carnival, which commences on the 22d of December, and ends on the 24th of January.

SANS SOUCI has long been known by name throughout Europe: it was the favourite palace of Frederick; it was built by him; and a short description of it cannot be deemed a digression. This palace is agreeably situated on a rising ground, about a quarter of a league from Potsdam. It is a low building, erected in a simple stile; but the apartments are judiciously disposed, and furnished with abundant taste. The picture-gallery is an exquisite collection of capital performances, chiefly

from the Flemish school. The gardens are spacious, and replete with apposite decorations. At the bottom of the gardens belonging to Sans Souci, and about a league from Potsdam, stands the Palais Neuf, a most superb edifice, in the Composite order, the erection of which is said to have cost six millions of crowns; an immense sum in a country where both labour and materials are comparatively cheap. This structure is internally fitted up in a very singular, though convenient taste. In the front are the principal offices, to which there is an ascent by a flight of marble steps: these are connected to the main building by a beautiful double colonnade; and at the two extremes of the court that fronts the palace, are two other edifices, with extensive inner courts, appropriated for inferior offices.

HERE his majesty used to receive the visits of the royal family, where he entertained them with superb balls, feasts, plays, and operas. On such occasions the court was extremely brilliant; and not only the royal family and foreign princes, but likewise officers and foreigners of distinction, were invited to dine with the king. But as these visits were not very agreeable

agreeable to Frederick, they were not often repeated, or long continued. They seldom lasted longer than eight or ten days at a time, and were not usually more than annual. As soon as the royal family, to which the king shewed great affection on proper occasions, had retired, his majesty immediately returned to Sans Souci. With the queen, who survives him, he always lived on the most friendly terms, (we will not say affectionate, for that is out of the question;) he saw her perhaps twice or thrice in the year; he treated her with the respect due to her rank and her sex, but it was the respect of indifference, not of conjugal regard. Few queens ever experienced such a fate. In general, she resided, during summer, at Schoenhausen, a country-house about four miles from Berlin; and in winter, at Mont Bijou, where she had a publick day twice a week. She was beloved by all that knew her, except her husband; by him she was admired only for her mild acquiescence in his unconquerable aversion to receive her as a wife. Yet, though she could not be said to love a husband, in a person who never would cohabit with her; so ridiculous are the rules which custom has introduced, that the
usual

usual compliments of condolence were paid her on his decease.

BUT let us not hastily condemn this great man for a treatment apparently unaccountable; nay, more, unjust. It has already been observed, that the queen was forced on him by the arbitrary commands of a father whom he had little reason to respect; affection was not even consulted; and human ceremonies cannot superinduce that quality so essential to matrimonial happiness. Besides, as his consent was involuntary, a principle of magnanimity might have some share in preventing him from submitting farther than was unavoidable to this compulsive alliance; and the candid will allow, that he displayed more true wisdom and goodness in observing the respectful distance he did, than if he had by a closer union, destitute of the requisite qualities to ensure felicity, disturbed his own peace, and rendered the queen completely miserable. The world, we are sensible, has always viewed this part of his majesty's conduct in opposite lights, and ascribed it to different causes; but, judging by the criterion
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of our own breasts, we think the apology produced is rational and fair, and sufficiently valid to satisfy those who will deign to reflect before they dare to condemn.

ATTENTIVE to every department of the state, his majesty had always before him an exact list of the produce of the finances, and of the necessary expences of government; and every year, after casting up the account, and striking a balance, he is said to have added a surplus of about 400,000 crowns to his treasury. Part of his savings were employed in rewarding eminent merit with presents or pensions, in acts of beneficence, in repairing damages, relieving distressed, draining marshes, and promoting agriculture and commerce. In particular, a vast number of edifices were erected by his majesty, at a very considerable annual expence. In Berlin alone forty houses were built at his charge every year, and thirty-two at Potsdam; both which cities, under his auspices, have been raised from inconsiderable places to rank with the finest capitals of Europe.

THE new-built houses in these cities were conferred on individuals, sometimes on the king's officers; but always on condition that certain apartments should be reserved for the accommodation of soldiers; and that the tenant maintain a servant to make their beds, clean their rooms, and dress their provisions. In a similar manner, and under similar conditions, a certain number of houses were annually erected and given away at Königsberg, Breslau, and other towns in the Prussian dominions.

BUT, exclusive of inferior buildings and establishments for the advantage of individuals, and the convenience of his soldiers, his majesty, at an unlimited expence, carried on many works of public utility, and formed many excellent establishments, on a more magnificent scale; while, at the same time, he restored others that had been instituted by his ancestors, but fallen into neglect.

AMONG these, particular regard is due to the Academy of Sciences at Berlin, originally founded by Frederick I. but neglected in the succeeding reign; and to the Military Academy, which

which is under the most judicious and salutary regulations. In this seminary, fifteen young gentlemen, selected from the corps of Noble Cadets, are maintained and educated at the royal expence. Their dress, which is a plain uniform, consists of a blue coat, yellow waistcoat and breeches, with white buttons. To every three students, a sage, sensible, and experienced officer, is appointed as governor; and he is enjoined to keep a vigilant eye on his pupils, and to direct their education. His pupils all sleep in the same chamber; and they are allowed a lacquey, in the livery of the house, for their attendant.

THE mode in which these young gentlemen are educated, seems admirably calculated to render them useful members of society, and to inspire them with notions suitable to their birth and destination. They are instructed in all the living languages, and in the different sciences, by masters or professors of distinguished abilities; and while they are imbibing useful learning, particular attention is at the same time shewn to instill just principles of action into their juvenile bosoms.

THE government of this school is entrusted to a privy-counsellor, who acts under the immediate direction of a lieutenant-general. The entire expence of the establishment amounts to 45,000 crowns annually.

EXCLUSIVE of the fifteen pupils which the state maintains, other fifteen are admitted into this seminary, whose parents pay the director 800 crowns a year for each. These live and are educated in a similar manner with the rest; and are only eligible by the express permission of the sovereign.

THE school of Noble Cadets has been much celebrated; and, in a country where the military art is so universally studied, it certainly must be considered as a beneficial establishment. Into it three hundred and fifty youths are received, who are all the sons of noblemen; but who, in general, have little to boast but an elevated descent.

THESE cadets are fed and cloathed in a very humble stile: their education is wholly military, or at least they are taught little that is not collaterally connected with the art of war.

A few

A few old invalids superintend their progress; and they are frequently formed into companies, and exercised on the parade.

THE expence of this corps is very considerable; and it may justly be considered as the nursery of subalterns for the Prussian armies.

HIS majesty likewise instituted other establishments, on a similar but less extensive plan, in several parts of his dominions.

BUT, of all the institutions of Frederick, none does more honour to his memory than that of the Orphan House at Potsdam, a foundation which is under the most excellent regulations. In it six thousand children are suitably provided with every necessary at the expence of the king. The boys are considered as soldiers from the instant of their adoption, and are distributed through the several regiments when they arrive at the proper age. The girls are maintained in this asylum till they are placed out in service, or married with the approbation of their superintendants. The edifice in which they are lodged is of vast extent, and admirable contrivance; and here orphans,

the children of the poor, and the illegitimate, are indiscriminately received.

INDEED pregnancy, both in the married and single, is considered as extremely respectable in Prussia. A big belly secures, by law, the abandoned daughter from the reproaches of her parents, and the maid-servant from the insults of her master or mistress. When a girl is with child, she applies to a magistrate, who fixes the place of her lying-in; and the inhabitants of the town or village pay the expences of her delivery, if her friends are not in circumstances sufficiently affluent to support her themselves. The expence incurred on this occasion, as well as that of bringing up the child, is afterwards reimbursed by the king.

WHERE female chastity is not even considered as a virtue, a depravity of manners might reasonably be expected; and yet we do not find, on enquiry, that the women in the Prussian dominions are more abandoned than their neighbours. It was not a compliment to licentiousness that was paid by the regulations just mentioned; it was only one of the political expedients of Frederick to increase the population

population of his dominions; an object he ever had near at his heart, and in which he succeeded in an eminent degree.

WHEN the king ascended the throne in 1740, the whole population of his dominions, according to the statement of the accurate and philosophick Hertßberg, did not exceed 2,240,000 persons; and at his death it amounted to more than 6,000,000. From this is to be deducted 2,000,000, for the population of Silesia, West Prussia, and East Friezland, the three provinces his majesty acquired; the remainder will amount to near double the ancient population.

THIS vast increase arose from a variety of judicious encouragements to agriculture, commerce, and manufactures. Strangers of every persuasion and nation were invited to settle in Prussia: an universal toleration was granted to all religions; the king himself shewing no particular predilection for any, that he might not excite a jealousy among his subjects; and the equitable regulations he established, the favour he shewed to industry, the relief he granted to the unfortunate, all conspired to render

render his government desirable to those who were discontented with that under which they were born, or who were obliged to fly from their native country for their crimes or their misfortunes.

PRINCES possessed of infinitely greater revenues, have neither added to the prosperity of their subjects, nor increased their own glory: Frederick, with moderate resources, has left the world a proof of commendable œconomy, and prudent distribution. What others have dissipated on the trumpery of a court and the cravings of minions, the King of Prussia reserved for the laudable purposes of rewarding merit, promoting the happiness of his people, and improving his dominions.

FAR from being enriched at the public expence, the Prussian officers of state esteem themselves fortunate, if they can support a becoming dignity, and make a very moderate provision for their family. The policy of this country provides no places for the luxurious great; where the emolument is large, and the business unimportant: on the contrary, whatever may be the salary, considerable talents,

lents, and uniform assiduity, are indispensably necessary for it's attainment.

SUCH were the invariable maxims by which Frederick acted with regard to his servants: he was active and assiduous himself, and of consequence he considered those qualities as essential in others. His successor seems to have adopted the same principles, and is likely to support the dignity of the Prussian monarchy unimpaired.

THE anecdotes recorded of his late Prussian majesty are too numerous to be collected, and many of them too trivial to deserve that trouble. As a wit and a punster, we allow him all the merit that can be due to qualities of that description; but we do not think the character of Frederick requires such feeble aids to support it: we shall therefore content ourselves with a selection of some few anecdotes which are perfectly characteristick of his disposition, which serve to display his justice, his clemency, and even his rigour; leaving the gleaners of bon mots and repartees to profit by our silence.

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THE circumstance that does him the truest honour, is, that he never inflicted death on any person, however aggravated their offences, and however much his own personal safety seemed to require it.

DURING the course of the long war in which his majesty was engaged while he was in Silesia, his valet-de-chambre was bribed to administer poison to him. The king, who was an excellent physiognomist, perceiving, one morning, that his servant trembled as he was presenting his chocolate; looking him earnestly in the face, immediately exclaimed—
“ Je suis certain que tu es payé pour m’empoisonner — I am certain that you have been
“ bribed to poison me.” The man denied the charge, but with that trepidation that always accompanies guilt. The king gave the chocolate to a dog, and the animal died in less than two hours. His majesty satisfied himself with discovering the accessaries in the plot; and sending the fellow to Spandau, the fortress in which state-prisoners are confined, without making the affair known to any person for some time. This capital offender, after suffering some years imprisonment, was

at

at last released; he had time to reflect on the enormity of his crime; and the consciousness of that was the severest punishment that could perhaps have been inflicted.

A SIMILAR instance of magnanimity occurs in regard to a Silesian nobleman. This person, who had contrived to gain the king's confidence, laid a plan, during the same war, to deliver his majesty into the hands of the Austrians. The Silesian gave them intelligence that the king rode out every day to reconnoitre, attended only by a few persons on horseback; and, in concert with the Austrian general, he fixed on a day and hour for his seizure. The curate of the village in which the king at that time resided, had been joined as an accomplice in the fatal scheme; and to him was intrusted the conveyance of letters between the conspirators. Just as his majesty was one day mounting his horse, a servant of the nobleman came and threw himself at the king's feet, presenting him, at the same time, with a letter, which his master had ordered him to deliver to the curate; adding, "Sire, I believe, this letter concerns you." The king opened the letter, and perceiving

the clearest indications of an intended conspiracy, he immediately sent to reconnoitre if there was in reality an ambuscade at the place mentioned; and the moment he was convinced of the fact, he dispatched an officer, at the head of a detachment of cavalry, with orders to arrest the Silesian conspirator, who under a pretence of business was gone to sleep at a country-seat about two miles off.

THE officer, who was unacquainted with the king's motives for issuing this mandate, delivered it, with much politeness, to the nobleman; who, receiving it with great apparent tranquillity and good humour, breakfasted with the officer; and, in short, acted his part with so much dexterity and ease, that the latter suffered him to retire for a moment into another apartment, from whence he found means to escape; and, mounting a fleet horse, was at a considerable distance before the duped officer suspected his flight. To overtake him was impossible: the enemy, with whom he took shelter, was too near; and on the officer's returning, and informing his majesty of the artifice that had been played on him, the king coolly replied—' Get back to your regiment: ' you

‘ you are a very awkward fellow, and I shall
‘ certainly never employ you again in such a
‘ commission.’

ABOUT twenty years ago, one of the hussars of the bedchamber robbed his majesty of ten thousand crowns, which were lying in rouleaus under the tables in his cabinet. The next day, at dinner, the king complained of the theft; and, with his usual pleasantry, added, that he was surrounded with thieves, but desired that no search should be made. In a few days, an old servant came to inform his majesty, that one of his hussars was the robber; on which the king replied—‘ You are an impostor; and
‘ if the thing were so, you do wrong to mention it.’ However, the accuser insisted on the truth of what he had advanced; at the same time assuring his master, that the hussar had contrived to convey five thousand crowns to Berlin, and that the remaining five thousand were sewed up in his mattrass. ‘ If your
‘ majesty has any doubts remaining,’ continued the domestick, ‘ I can shew you the money.’—‘ By no means,’ replied the king; ‘ and I order you to say no more about it.’

THE matter would have terminated here; but, in a short time afterwards, the king met his huffar in a carriage. This exasperated him more than his loss. ‘What!’ said he, ‘you rascal, is it in this manner you spend the money you robbed me of?’ However, he suffered the huffar to proceed in his airing; but next day turned him over to the regiment he originally served in. It is said, his majesty never reviewed this regiment without asking his old servant if he had discontinued his practice of travelling in a coach.

ANOTHER instance of lenity presents itself, in the conduct of Frederick to a confidential servant, who had grossly abused his trust, in the capacity of domestick treasurer. The king had ordered some work to be done in one of his apartments at Sans Souci; but finding it incompleat after the time limited for it’s performance, his majesty questioned the undertaker about the delay. ‘Sire,’ said the man, ‘I am extremely busy at present in ornamenting a cieling in the new house of your treasurer.’ The curiosity of the monarch was excited by this information, and he determined to have ocular demonstration of his servant’s

servant's prodigality. He therefore contrived to visit the new building one morning, at an hour when he had intelligence that his domestick was there. The king entered the house very abruptly, and desired to be conducted over the different apartments. His majesty admired their elegance, and complimented the owner's taste. At length, being shewn into a bed-chamber of singular magnificence, his majesty begged to know for whose use it was intended. 'It is for myself, Sire,' replied the treasurer in a low voice, and with visible embarrassment. The architect happened to be at the door as his majesty withdrew, and him he interrogated about the expence of the edifice. 'I pr'ythee, Sir,' said the king to the treasurer, who stood quaking behind him, 'where did you find money for the present purpose?'—'From your coffers, Sire,' replied the treasurer, throwing himself at his majesty's feet; 'but I will certainly replace it.' The patience of the monarch was now exhausted; and he gave him a severe caning, exclaiming at the same time—'I should have pardoned you, you rascal, if it had not been for the bed-chamber you have the impudence to sleep in!' The domestick

domestick had just reason to apprehend his ruin was inevitable: the next day, however, his majesty sent for him, and ordered him to open the coffer in his presence; when, finding only two or three thousand crowns in it, the king blustered in a violent manner, calling him thief and scoundrel; but concluded with commanding the aggressor to take what remained, and never more to appear before him. This anecdote incontestibly proves, that avarice, properly speaking, was not one of the ruling passions of this monarch; and that he sometimes suffered himself to be cheated with a philosophick indifference.

It has been a frequent remark, that the great speedily forget their best friends, when they no longer stand in need of their services; and that importunity and assiduity are absolutely necessary to secure the success of dependents. The following proof, among many others which might be produced of the deliberate generosity and munificence of Frederick, in some measure obviates the justice of the observation, and assists to throw a splendor on the character of this prince.

GENERAL

GENERAL Leschwitz had served the king, during his long war, with distinguished fidelity and activity, without having received the smallest reward; and a peace had now been concluded six years, in all which space the sovereign had scarcely ever spoken to him. At the end of this period, the government of Potsdam, and a regiment of guards, becoming at once vacant, this seemingly neglected officer received them both from his royal master; and, in the same year, a reversionary grant of lands, to the amount of 200,000 crowns, falling into the king's hands, he embraced this new opportunity of recompensing his brave veteran by a formal donation of them, accompanied with the following letter.

‘ GENERAL LESCHWITZ,

‘ THE important services you rendered me during the last war, are still fresh in my remembrance. I have waited with impatience for an opportunity of rewarding you, which has not till this moment occurred. Go, and take possession of the lands made over to you in the patent here inclosed.

‘ Signed, FREDERICK.’

THE

THE history of princes affords too few instances of similar generosity. Others lavish their favours on mistresses and parasites; but Frederick was attentive to merit only, and munificence to merit is at once the duty and the glory of a king!

THE whole reign of his Prussian majesty was replete with examples of inflexible justice, and of prudent decision. It would require volumes to particularize half the instances that have been recorded of his unbiassed judgment, and impartial decrees. But none, perhaps, was more remarkable than his reversion of the verdict against Arnaud, the miller, who was condemned to payment for his mill, after the landlord had diverted the stream so as to render him incapable of working it. The exemplary punishment of the judge who made this oppressive decision, will long be remembered by admiring posterity; and it will still be told, to the immortal honour of Frederick, that he knew no distinction between subjects, and that he acted by no rule with regard to them, but that which equity prescribed.

INNUMERABLE

INNUMERABLE anecdotes of his majesty's agreeable spirit of pleasantry might be exhibited. We shall satisfy ourselves with two or three.

THE princess who was first espoused to the prince royal of Prussia; but between whom a separation had taken place, having ordered some rich stuffs from Lyons, which pay a considerable duty at Stettin, the place of her retirement, the officer rudely detained them for the charge. The princess, enraged at this insult, sent word, that if he would himself bring the goods, he should be satisfied. Accordingly, as soon as he arrived, the princess secured every article; and, after complimenting him with some smart cuffs on the face, turned him out of the apartment. On this he drew up a memorial, complaining bitterly of the treatment he had received in the execution of his office; and addressing it to the king, had the subsequent answer in return.

THE loss of the duties must be placed to my account: the stuffs are to remain in the possession of the princess—the cuffs with him who received them. As to the supposed dishonour,

‘dishonour, I cancel it at the complainant’s request: but, indeed, it is of itself void; for the delicate hand of a fair lady cannot possibly dishonour the face of a custom-house officer.’

‘Signed, FREDERICK.’

THE following decisions possess equal humour. The commissioners of excise had condemned a common soldier to pay a fine of ten thousand crowns for smuggling; and this sentence, according to the usual mode of procedure, having been laid before the king, his majesty wrote in the margin—‘Before I confirm this sentence, I wish to know how it will be possible to make a common soldier pay ten thousand crowns.’

A SHORT time ago, another soldier, of the Roman Catholick persuasion, was accused and condemned for robbing an image of the Virgin Mary of some of it’s costly decorations. The poor soldier uniformly maintained, that the Virgin, in consideration of his poverty and devotion, had made him a present of the articles in question; and this defence was delivered in to the king with his sentence. His majesty immediately summoned the principal professors

fors of that religion, and asked them if the allegation of the poor soldier was possible. They returned for answer, that it was certainly very unusual, but not impossible. . On this Frederick pronounced, that as the chiefs of his religion had considered his plea as possible, he should reverse his sentence of condemnation for this time; but he cautioned him against accepting presents in future from the Virgin Mary, or any other virgin, in that clandestine manner.

MEMOIRS of the House of Brandenburg, to the conclusion of the reign of Frederick I. and the celebrated Frederician code of laws, deservedly possess the first rank among his majesty's writings; the rest are chiefly miscellaneous, in poetry and prose.

As a poet, the translations annexed to these Memoirs, will prove he was entitled to no mean distinction; and the subsequent extract from his Letters on Patriotism, will at once do honour to his head and his heart. Having defined a good citizen to be one whose invariable principle it is to be as useful as he can to the community of which he is a member, the

king proceeds to consider how his duties are to be deduced, and what they are. ‘Man,’ says this royal author, ‘is not formed to exist without society; the most savage nations that have come to our knowledge, have always been found already formed into some sort of tribes or clans. Nations that are in any degree civilized, are united by more definite and solemn conventions, and are bound to mutual assistance and support. This becomes a duty, and is moreover the interest of each individual, tending at the same time to the good of the whole. If this mutual assistance was suspended or withdrawn, confusion must follow; and, in the end, destruction to individuals, and subversion of the state. These principles are not new; they have been the principles on which all those ancient states, of which we have any accounts, were formed. The commonwealths of Greece and Rome were framed on the same model. If we have seen them at length extinct and obliterated, we must attribute it to the inordinate jealousy and turbulent disposition of some of their members. The Greeks, by their civil dissensions, paved the way to their own downfall; and the Romans became the prey of some

‘ some artful and ambitious men, who acquired
‘ sufficient power to subvert the equality of a
‘ republick.

‘ Good monarchies, founded on principles
‘ of prudence and philanthropy, constitute
‘ in our times a species of government ap-
‘ proaching much more to aristocracy than
‘ despotism: in fact, it is the LAWS only that
‘ reign in such a government. The prince,
‘ in such a state, is far from being a despotick
‘ and absolute governor, acting only from his
‘ caprice; he is only the central point in which
‘ all the radii of the circle concur. If the
‘ prince is endued with firmness, there will be
‘ much less room for faction than in repub-
‘ licks, which are so often ruined and subverted
‘ by the iniquitous intrigues and confederacies
‘ of the citizens against each other.

‘ A WELL governed empire should resemble
‘ a family, of which the prince may be confi-
‘ dered as the father, and the people as his
‘ children; he should participate in their hap-
‘ piness and their calamities; for a good prince
‘ cannot be happy, while his people are other-
‘ wise. From this union of interest, good and
‘ grateful

‘grateful citizens are to be produced; citizens
‘too strictly bound to the state to be diverted
‘from their attachment to it, as they would
‘have every thing to lose, and nothing to gain,
‘by deserting it.’

CHARLES Frederick, the late King of Prussia, had three brothers and six sisters. His brothers were William Augustus, father of the present king, born August 9, 1722; Frederick Henry, born January 18, 1725-6; and Augustus Ferdinand, born May 22, 1730: the two last survive him. His sisters were Frederica Augusta, born July 3, 1709, married to the Hereditary Prince of Culmbach; Frederica Louisa, born September 28, 1714, and married to Charles Frederick, Margrave of Brandenburg Anspach; Philippina Charlotte, born March 13, 1716; Dorothea Sophia, born January 26, 1719, and married to the Margrave Frederick William de Schwed; Louisa Ulrica, born July 24, 1720; and Anne Amelia, born November 9, 1723.

THE present King of Prussia, of whom the world has always spoke in the highest terms of panegyrick, was born September 25, 1744;
and

and married July 14, 1765, the Princess Elizabeth Christiana Ulrica of Brunswick Wolfenbüttele, by whom he has one daughter, Charlotte, born in 1767.

HAVING repudiated this Princess, he married Frederica Louisa of Hesse Darmstadt, July 14, 1769, by whom he has a numerous family. Frederick William, the present prince royal of Prussia, was born in 1770.

END OF THE MEMOIRS.

* * Mr. HARRISON thinks it proper to acknowledge, that the Continuation of the preceding Memoirs, from Page 223, Line 10, was written by a LITERARY FRIEND.

The first of the following Translations is by an anonymous Pen.

P O E M S,
TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH
OF THE
KING OF PRUSSIA.

ODE TO COURAGE.

BLOOD-thirsty foe to human kind!
Tyrant, precipitate and blind!
'Tis not to thee I altars raise;
Thy headlong fury claims no songs of praise.
But thou, firm Magnanimity,
Heroick, patient, 'tis to thee!
Who, nobly scorning fear or hate,
Dost calmly brave the iron hand of fate;
Whom, fond of life, yet fir'd at virtue's call,
Not death nor all it's horrors can appall.

When, rashly bold, Prometheus stole
That animating fire, the soul;
Incens'd, the injur'd deities,
Against the impious wretch who robb'd the skies,
Pandora's fatal casket sent,
Infernal woes within it pent;
Which, reaching earth, no sooner burst,
Than man had sunk, by various ills accurs'd;
Had not the gods, amidst their anger kind,
Left him, at bottom, soothing hope behind.

On this wide universal stage,
 Where mortals in wild scenes engage,
 Nature, their step-dame, seems to enjoy,
 At ease, those evils which their peace destroy.
 Protected none by honest worth,
 By dignity, or noblest birth,
 Our pleasures less than are our pains:
 See aged Galileo bound in chains;
 See banish'd Medicis his country fly;
 And royal Charles upon a scaffold die.

Lo! here our plunder'd fortunes rise,
 In shape of want, before our eyes;
 And just resentment there excite
 The heart-felt wounds of disingenuous spite;
 Or health, the best of joys, we seek,
 Sits drooping on the pallid cheek;
 Thro' every limb shoots writhing pain;
 Or else a faithful friend or brother slain:
 A tender mother, or a wife most dear,
 Is dead; or, dying, claims the gushing tear.

As on the seas, with toil and pain,
 The barbarous tyrants of the main
 Govern their little barks, nor mind
 The raging fury of the boist'rous wind,
 Tho' on it's wings the billows rise,
 And lift their heads into the skies,
 Or, back recoiling from the swell,
 The sinking vessel seems consign'd to hell
 By heaven itself; while, in a pilot's form,
 Lo! Courage stands unmov'd, and laughs to scorn the storm.

So, in the hour when dire alarms
 Of adverse fortune call to arms;
 Courage my sword, and Hope my shield,
 What other weapon have I cause to wield!
 Let persecuting fate-oppose,
 And raise up hosts on hosts of foes,
 I'll meet them boldly, face to face;
 Nor shall one dastard thought my mind debase:
 When Hope grows faint, and fears the weak controul,
 Then should the brave display their dauntless soul.

Life on the wing, each precious hour
 Is only once within our power;

While

While time his rapid flight doth place,
 Among the blessings of the human race ;
 For e'en the loss we most regret,
 Time soon will teach us to forget ;
 But cannot change our future lot,
 Or be the past remember'd or forgot.
 How peevish then to constantly complain
 Of passing griefs, and momentary pain !

The servile Ovid in disgrace
 I hardly know, so mean and base
 To stoop and kiss th' oppressive hand
 That thrust him banish'd from his native land ;
 To judge from his fond thoughts of home,
 True bliss was only found at Rome :
 But how much happier had he been,
 If taught by reason to subdue the spleen,
 With manly Horace he had felt and known,
 His bliss depended on himself alone !

Ye philosophically wise,
 Terrestrial inmates of the skies !
 Made animate from stoick clods,
 From mortal men aspiring to be gods !
 Your minds by matchless wisdom taught,
 Your breasts with dauntless courage fraught,
 'Tis yours to act, to live, to die,
 Above the weakness of a tear or sigh ;
 Against your hearts, adversity and pain
 Aiming the darts of misery in vain.

Hence Regulus forsook his friends
 And country, for the noblest ends ;
 Advis'd them Carthage to oppose,
 And risk'd the fury of his cruel foes.
 In beggary's meanest abject state,
 See Bellisarius blind and great ;
 Greater than when, the battle won,
 High on the splendid car of victory he shone.
 Never more truly great was Louis found,
 Than when his dying offspring dropp'd around.

No effort makes the vulgar mind,
 In Pleasure's downy lap reclin'd,
 The prosperous lot, devoid of care,
 Which chance alone procur'd, with ease to bear.

'Tis not in proud prosperity
 The man of fortitude we see;
 Who, till by adverse fortune cross'd,
 Is in the herd of common beings lost:
 But when depress'd, the soul that's truly great,
 Rises in all it's strength, and braves the storms of fate.

Deaf to the prayers of human-kind,
 Fortune inflexible and blind,
 Distributes round her various woes,
 While mortals strive in vain her will to oppose.
 No; not Alcides' matchless force
 Can stem the torrent in it's course:
 In vain against the rapid stream
 His greatest efforts who attempts to swim.
 True courage arms us patiently to endure,
 And nobly bear, those ills we cannot cure.

EPISTLE TO VOLTAIRE.

TRANSLATED BY JOHN GILBERT COOPER, ESQ.

VOLTAIRE, believe me, were I now
 In private life's calm station plac'd,
 Let Heav'n for nature's wants allow,
 With cold indiff'rence would I view
 Changing Fortune's winged haste,
 And laugh at her caprice like you.
 Th' insipid farce of tedious state,
 Imperial duty's real weight,
 The faithless courtier's supple bow,
 The fickle multitude's cares,
 And the great Vulgar's Littleness,
 By long experience well I know;
 And, tho' a Prince and Poet born,
 Vain blandishments of glory scorn.
 For when the ruthless shears of Fate
 Have cut my life's precarious thread,
 And rank'd me with th' unconscious dead,
 What will't avail that I *was* great,
 Or that th' uncertain tongue of Fame
 In Mem'ry's temple chaunts my name?

One blissful moment while we live
 Weighs more than ages of renown;
 What then do Potentates receive
 Of good, peculiarly their own?
 Sweet Ease and unaffected Joy,
 Domestick Peace, and sportive Pleasure,
 The regal throne and palace fly;
 And, born for liberty, prefer
 Soft silent scenes of lovely leisure,
 To, what we Monarchs buy so dear,
 The thorny pomp of scepter'd care.
 My pain or bliss shall ne'er depend
 On fickle Fortune's casual flight;
 For, whether she's my foe or friend,
 In calm repose I'll pass the night;
 And ne'er by watchful homage own
 I court her smile, or fear her frown.
 But from our stations we derive
 Unerring precepts how to live,
 And certain deeds each rank calls forth,
 By which is measur'd human worth.
 Voltaire, within his private cell,
 In realms where ancient honesty
 Is patrimonial property,
 And sacred Freedom loves to dwell,
 May give up all his peaceful mind,
 Guided by Plato's deathless page,
 In silent solitude resign'd
 To the mild virtues of a Sage;
 But I, 'gainst whom wild whirlwinds wage
 Fierce war with wreck-denouncing wing,
 Must be, to face the tempest's rage,
 In thought, in life, in death, a king!

ODE TO DEATH.

TRANSLATED BY DR. HAWKESWORTH.

YET a few years, or days perhaps,
 Or moments pass with silent lapse,
 And time to me shall be no more;
 No more the sun these eyes shall view,
 Earth o'er these limbs her dust shall strew,
 And life's fantastick dream be o'er.

Alas!

Alas! I touch the dreadful brink;
 From Nature's verge impell'd I sink;
 And endless darkness wraps me round!
 Yes, Death is ever at my hand,
 Fast by my bed he takes his stand,
 And constant at my board is found.

Earth, air, and fire, and water, join
 Against this fleeting life of mine;
 And where for succour can I fly?
 If art, with flatt'ring wiles, pretend
 To shield me like a guardian friend,
 By Art, ere Nature bids, I die.

I see this tyrant of the mind,
 This idol Flesh, to dust consign'd,
 Once call'd from dust by Pow'r divine;
 It's features change! 'tis pale! 'tis cold—
 Hence, dreadful spectre! to behold
 Thy aspect, is to make it mine.

And can I, then, with guilty pride,
 Which fear nor shame can quell or hide,
 This flesh still pamper and adorn!
 Thus viewing what I soon shall be,
 Can what I am demand the knee,
 Or look on aught around with scorn?

But then this spark that warms, that guides,
 That lives, that thinks, what fate betides!
 Can this be dust, a kneaded clod!
 This yield to death! the soul, the mind,
 That measures heav'n, and mounts the wind,
 That knows, at once, itself and God?

Great Cause of all, above, below,
 Who knows thee, must for ever know,
 Immortal and divine!
 Thy image on my soul impress'd,
 Of endless being is the test,
 And bids eternity be mine!

Transporting thought!—but am I sure
 That endless life will joy secure?
 Joy's only to the just decreed!
 The guilty wretch expiring, goes
 Where Vengeance endless life bestows,
 That endless misery may succeed.

Great God, how awful is the scene!
 A breath, a transient breath between;
 And can I jest, and laugh, and play!
 To earth, alas! too firmly bound,
 Trees deeply rooted in the ground,
 Are shiver'd when they're torn away.

Vain joys, which envied greatness gains,
 How do ye bind with silken chains,
 Which ask Herculean strength to break!
 How with new terrors have ye arm'd
 The pow'r whose slightest glance alarm'd!
 How many deaths of one ye make!

Yet, dumb with wonder, I behold
 Man's thoughtless race, in error bold,
 Forget or scorn the laws of death;
 With these no projects coincide,
 Nor vows, nor toils, nor hopes, they guide,
 Each thinks he draws immortal breath.

Each, blind to Fate's approaching hour,
 Intrigues or fights for wealth or pow'r,
 And slumb'ring dangers dares provoke:
 And he who, tott'ring, scarce sustains
 A century's age, plans future gains,
 And feels an unexpected stroke.

Go on, unbridled, desp'rate band,
 Scorn rocks, gulphs, winds, search sea and land,
 And spoil new worlds wherever found:
 Seize, haste to seize the glitt'ring prize,
 And sighs, and tears, and pray'rs, despise,
 Nor spare the temple's holy ground.

They go, succeed; but look again,
 The desp'rate band you seek in vain,
 Now trod in dust, the peasant's scorn:
 But who that saw their treasures swell,
 That heard th' insatiate vow, rebel,
 Would e'er have thought them mortal born?

See the world's victor mount his car;
 Blood marks his progress wide and far,
 Sure he shall reign while ages fly:
 No; vanish'd like a morning cloud,
 The hero was but just allow'd
 To fight, to conquer, and to die.

And is it true, I ask with dread,
 That nations, heap'd on nations, bled
 Beneath his chariot's fervid wheel,
 With trophies to adorn the spot,
 Where his pale corse was left to rot,
 And doom'd the hungry reptile's meal?

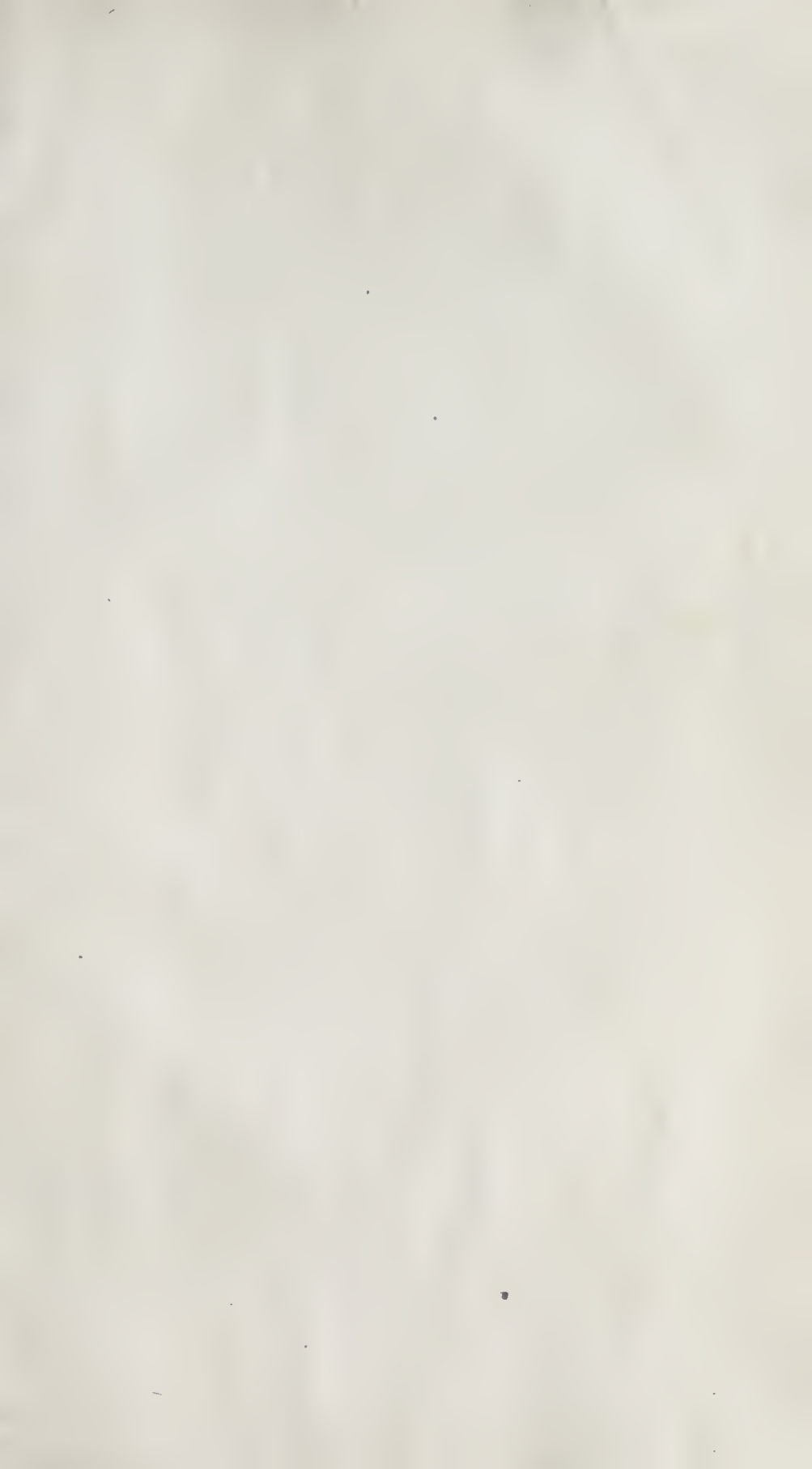
Yes! Fortune, wearied with her play,
 Her toy, this hero, casts away,
 And scarce the form of man is seen:
 Awe chills my breast, my eyes o'erflow,
 Around my brows no roses glow,
 The cypress mine, funereal green!

Yet in this hour of grief and fears,
 When awful Truth unveil'd appears,
 Some pow'r unknown usurps my breast;
 Back to the world my thoughts are led,
 My feet in Folly's lab'rinth tread,
 And fancy dreams that life is blest'd.

How weak an empress is the mind,
 Whom Pleasure's flow'ry wreaths can bind,
 And captive to her altars lead!
 Weak Reason yields, to Phrenzy's rage,
 And all the world is Folly's stage,
 And all that act are fools indeed.

And yet this strange, this sudden flight,
 From gloomy cares to gay delight,
 This fickleness, so light and vain,
 In life's delusive, transient dream,
 Where men, nor things, are what they seem,
 Is all the real good we gain.

FINIS.





Form 45

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Johnson

Memoirs of King of Prussia

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